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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Criticizes Israeli Escalation in Lebanon

NC2507115693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] The Arab League General Secretariat has expressed deep concern over the escalating Israeli bombardment of south Lebanon for the seventh day in a row. It condemned the constant Israeli acts, threats, and provocation and the continuing concentration of Israeli military reinforcements in the border strip, acts that are bound to obstruct the peace process.

The League's General Secretariat called on the United Nations and its member nations to intervene immediately and force Israel, not only to halt its repeated attacks on south Lebanon, but to implement immediately UN Security Council Resolution 425, which requires a full Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon, and to enable Lebanon to establish sovereignty over all its territory.

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-al-Shafi Criticizes IDF Action in Lebanon

TA2507154093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] We have an initial Palestinian reaction to the Israeli attack in Lebanon. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian peace delegation, criticized the Israeli operation. Our correspondent Roni Sofer reports:

[Begin Sofer recording] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi sharply criticized the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] attack on Hizballah targets in Lebanon. Speaking with Palestinian correspondents in Gaza, He said that the attack is an Israeli attempt to demolish the peace process. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi told journalists that this is an unfortunate act which could indirectly encourage violence in the territories.

Islamic sources close to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip also denounced the Israeli Air Force attack on Hizballah targets in the al-Biqa' and south Lebanon. The Muslim extremists said that Israel is stepping up its acts of injustice against Muslims living in Lebanon. They demanded that Israel immediately stop the attacks against their brethren in Lebanon.

No special incidents were marked in Gaza streets today. The Arab street is following events with concern, but it looks as though Gaza Strip residents are waiting for developments in Lebanon before they decide how to react.

The security forces have prepared themselves to deal with possible disturbances. So far, however, the Gaza Strip is calm. [end recording]

PNC Official Calls On U.S. To Stop Israeli Attack

NC2607104393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1007 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—Palestine National Council [PNC] Secretary General Muhammad Subayh has called on the United States to take a clear stand on the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli Army from south Lebanon to stop the brutal aggression against south Lebanon that has claimed the lives of a number of unarmed civilians, and to stop the continuing violations of human rights in the occupied territories so that the peace process can proceed in healthy conditions. He stressed that the Israeli aggression against south Lebanon aims to undermine the whole peace process.

In a statement to MENA, Subayh said that this aggression is surprising and is condemned because it is a blatant violation of the Lebanese state's sovereignty and Security Council Resolution 425 on south Lebanon. He added that there are elements in the Israeli Defense Ministry and Government that want to thwart the peace process through constant pressure on the Arab side and escalation of violence and tension in the region.

He noted that Israel is continuing with the policy of demolishing houses in the Gaza Strip with its tanks, in addition to its deportation of 400 Palestinians to south Lebanon, its non-compliance with the implementation of Security Council Resolution 799 that demands the return of these deportees, and its continued isolation of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank which has as its goal starving the Palestinians and destroying their economy.

The PNC secretary general went on to say that one sign of the Israeli side's bad intentions is its attacks on all the Arab parties participating in the peace process through the recent operation in Lebanon because this operation targeted the Palestinian camps, Lebanese villages, and the Syrian army positions.

Subayh added that the objective of the recent military operation in Lebanon is to impose the Israeli conditions, especially those concerning Jerusalem.

He stressed that neither the Arabs nor the Palestinians will accept Israel's logic of force and that it will not be the Arabs alone who will be harmed by the failure of the peace talks but primarily Israel and the United States.

Israeli MK Describes Talks With PLO Officials

NC2507102593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Tunis, 25 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah has stated that he and Labor Party Knesset Member Ya'el Dayan held positive talks last night with three prominent PLO figures. The talks aimed to bring Palestinian and Israeli views closer on the peace negotiations, which are at an impasse.

Darawshah, the leader of Israel's Arab Democratic Party, told MENA's Tunis correspondent that he and Dayan met Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department; and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], a member of the PLO Executive Committee, until late yesterday and held a constructive and positive exchange of views.

Darawshah said he sensed determination by the Palestinian leaders to continue negotiating to reach agreement over the transfer of authority in the occupied territories for a transitional period. He said they stipulated that this should occur as part of an integrated plan linked with a final settlement of the Palestinian issue and in accordance with a Palestinian-Israeli agreement on principles.

Darawshah said Qaddumi, 'Abd-Rabbuh, and Abu-Mazin oppose the transfer of any powers to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza before an agreement on principles is reached.

He added that the Palestinian leaders told him discussions over Jerusalem, security, and the Israeli settlements could be postponed until the final stage of negotiations on condition that a guarantee is given that they will be discussed then.

He said the Palestinian leaders told him the U.S. paper on the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles must be amended to make it more balanced and more responsive to Palestinian demands.

Darawshah said the Palestinians called for direct and public negotiations between PLO and Israeli Government officials and that Qaddumi emphasized the need for these meetings to be public, not clandestine. Qaddumi also demanded that he meet Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Darawshah said Abu-Mazin did not meet Peres in Cairo as some media have suggested.

Darawshah reported that the Palestinian officials informed him that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is willing to meet Yitzhaq Rabin.

Darawshah went on to say he presented the three Palestinian officials with a plan to boost the Middle East peace process that ensures a peace solution is reached. He said the plan comprises the following three stages:

The first stage is to transfer all the powers of the Palestinian self-governing authority relating to the transitional stage and link this with the final solution and to lay down the bases and principles of the lasting solution, the confederation idea, and the territories issue.

The second stage is to raise the level of representation in the bilateral peace negotiations to that of the foreign ministers to include Shim'on Peres and Faruq Qaddumi.

The third stage is to hold an expanded summit similar to Camp David with the participation of the parties involved in the confrontation. This will be effected by U.S. President Clinton inviting all the Middle East leaders, including Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat, to Camp David to reach an agreement.

He said he hoped this plan could be implemented within a year in which a comprehensive and fair peace agreement is reached [words indistinct].

Darawshah said he found the three Palestinian officials responsive to and understanding of this plan, but they expressed their belief that the Middle East peace process can be boosted if the Israeli side has a sincere desire for peace.

'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah said he and Ya'el Dayan stressed to the three Palestinian leaders the need to create radical change in the peace negotiations and to provide opportunities for their success by holding public and direct meetings on negotiations between the PLO and the Israeli Government officials.

He said he called for a summit between 'Arafat and Rabin, stressing that there is a need for such a meeting, as it would create a real change in the course of the negotiations.

Darawshah said he will meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on 28 July to brief him on the outcome of his meetings with the PLO officials in Tunis and will also deliver a statement on the same day to the Knesset, briefing it and the Israeli public on the Palestinian stance that it wants to achieve a just peace.

Darawshah and Dayan arrived in Tunis the day before yesterday.

Israelis Not To Meet 'Arafat

LD2507184693 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] It has been learned that Yael Dayan and Abd al-Wahhab Darawshah, two Israeli Knesset members, will not be able to meet brother President Abu-'Ammar in Tunis. Dayan said that the meeting with President 'Arafat has been cancelled because of a change in his engagements schedule and not for political reasons. Dayan said that she and Darawshah had a meeting the evening before last with Tunis PLO representative brother Hakam Bal'awi. She described the talks as very good.

It was also expected that the two legislators would meet yesterday with brother Hakam Bal'awi, and that they would also meet brother Yasir Abd Rabbuh, the head of the PLO Information Department. Dayan said that she has a message from her fellow legislators in the Labor Party regarding holding a meeting next September in Tunis between Knesset deputies and PLO officials. The two legislators are trying to get the Tunisian president to patronize this meeting, and they are expected to meet the Tunisian foreign minister.

Dayan indicated that there is widespread feeling among members of the Israeli Government and Knesset deputies that a direct dialogue with the PLO is necessary. She affirmed that this is inevitable and that the PLO could not be bypassed. However, she considers that it is premature for Israel to officially recognize the Palestinian leadership.

It is worth mentioning that brother President Abu-'Ammar left Sanaa yesterday afternoon and headed to Southeast Asia. He arrived today in Beijing and is expected to visit Vietnam and North Korea.

Sha'th Cited on Plans for Direct Israel-PLO Talks

NC2407134993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian sources in Cairo told AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I today that intensive contacts are currently under way to open a direct dialogue between the PLO and Yitzhaq Rabin's government. The sources said that 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, Arab member of the Israeli Knesset and leader of the Arab Democratic Party, will deliver the first direct letter from Rabin's government to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat when they meet in Tunis tonight or tomorrow morning.

The Palestinian sources said that an agreement has been reached over the past three days that Darawshah will make shuttle tours between Tunis and Tel Aviv during the next two weeks to open a direct dialogue and lay bridges for meetings between the PLO and members of Rabin's government. The letters to be exchanged between the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships will include a number of ideas and points on the bases of the direct contacts, the situation in the occupied territories, all issues relevant to the transfer of authority to the Palestinians, and the relationship between Palestinians and Jordanians at the next stage.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to the Palestinian president, told a correspondent for AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I that contacts between the PLO leadership and members of the Rabin government are indeed taking place to pave the way for a direct dialogue between the two leaderships. He stressed that Darawshah's efforts will greatly help set the stage for direct contacts between the PLO and the Israeli Government. He explained that Darawshah's endeavors complete the direct meetings held in a number of capitals over the past days between prominent PLO officials and members of the ruling Israeli Labor Party.

Dr. Sha'th said the contacts are primarily aimed at convincing the Israeli Government to deal directly with the PLO at the bilateral and multilateral peace negotiations. He added: We hope that these contacts will produce results in the next few days to save the peace process and overcome all the obstacles in the way of the negotiations.

Sha'th stressed that the Palestinians will not present any new proposals to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his tour of the region, which will begin next week.

'Ashrawi Sees Gap Over Fundamental Issues

TA2307180793 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 23 Jul 93 pp 1, 7

[By Nasir Najib]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokeswoman of the Palestinian side in the peace talks, has affirmed the Palestinian position that is committed to the peace process.

Dr. 'Ashrawi said there is a wide gap over important and fundamental issues in the peace process, not procedural ones, as some parties are claiming.

In response to statements by British Foreign Minister Douglas Hogg following his visit to the occupied territories and in which he called for postponing discussion of the Jerusalem issue, Dr. 'Ashrawi told our correspondent that if agreement is reached on geographic jurisdiction, then ultimately the talks' terms of reference would have to be respected. This way progress can be achieved in the talks. She described those statements as "a political calculation."

'Ashrawi added that if the British minister's visit was intended to exert pressure on the Palestinian side to accept the Israeli and U.S. positions, this is rejected because Jerusalem is the Palestinian people's jugular vein and is not subject to bargaining or ambiguity. This is a principal issue. No solution can exclude the holy city or Palestinian rights in Jerusalem. It is a fundamental issue. The Palestinian side has expressed its rejection of the measures being carried out by Israel in the occupied territories, especially in Jerusalem.

'Ashrawi noted that nothing obligates the Palestinian side to accept these proposals, which contravene the Palestinian principles on the peace process.

On U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming visit to the region in August, 'Ashrawi said if there is not a constructive and comprehensive perception of the peace process, enabling the desired aim of this visit to be achieved, the situation will remain as it is without any concrete results being realized on the ground.

'Ashrawi pointed out that the next round of talks will be determined after this tour and in light of its results. Furthermore, the meeting of the Arab parties participating in the talks will also be determined after this visit. [passage omitted]

Christopher's Position on Jerusalem Called Biased

TA2307191493 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 23 Jul 93 p 11

[Editorial: "The Odd and Surprising Thing About Christopher's Statements"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's call to postpone discussion of the Jerusalem issue until the final stage of the peace talks, is both odd and surprising. The request is totally biased toward the Israeli position rejecting discussion of this issue and in total harmony with the practical reality imposed by Israel in isolating Arab Jerusalem from the rest of the occupied territories. This, at a time when the U.S. secretary intends to tour the region to invigorate the peace talks and raise the slogan of "honest broker."

Moreover, Christopher's statements contravene not only UN Security Council Resolution 242 but also the traditional position of former U.S. Administrations, which considered Arab Jerusalem part of the occupied territories. Christopher refused to affirm this when he was directly asked about this point. In addition, this U.S. call contradicts the U.S. understandings given to the Palestinians before the Madrid peace conference, reserving the right to raise the issue of Jerusalem in any stage of the negotiations.

Even more odd is that the U.S. secretary did not address in any way the major obstacles to the peace process, epitomized by the official Israeli positions raised at the negotiating table as well as by the practical Israeli practices in the occupied territories. Whereas, Christopher's call to postpone discussion of the Jerusalem issue until the final stage was directed at the Palestinians and constituted a baseless act of pressure, the U.S. secretary failed to ask Israel to cease its unilateral steps in the occupied territories. Foremost among these are the continued isolation of Arab Jerusalem, unceasing settlement activity, and continued stiff measures. This is in contradiction of one of the bases of the Madrid conference invitation. Christopher also ignored the persistent Israeli refusal to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy or adopt them as the basis of negotiations on all fronts and in the different stages of the talks.

This clear pro-Israeli U.S. bias casts doubt on the seriousness of the United States to push the peace process forward. It is also a harbinger of the proposals and ideas that Christopher will bring with him—proposals and ideas that do not herald a real breakthrough toward a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Today, if the U.S. secretary is really trying to advance the peace process, the United States should convince the Arab parties, including the Palestinian side, that it is indeed an "honest broker" so that this goal might be achieved. This cannot be realized as long as the United States continues to disregard the resolutions of international legitimacy and tries to circumvent them by formulas that are rejected by the international community as well as by the Arab and Palestinian side, and as long as it persists in its bias toward Israel and its positions. This means pushing the peace process backward and contributing to its collapse. Real peace cannot be forged away from international legitimacy or through formulas that reinforce occupation, injustice, and repression.

Source: Ross Briefed al-Husayni on U.S. Demands

JN2407105993 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Jul 93 pp 1, 18

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Amman—Washington has presented three demands and three options to the Palestinians that express the White House position on the Palestinian-Israeli track of the Middle East peace negotiations.

A Palestinian source directly supervising the peace process has revealed these demands and options to SAWT AL-SHA'B. He said Dennis Ross, special coordinator of the peace talks, informed Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, of demands that the Palestinians take action in three areas:

- Pinpointing the most appropriate domains to assume power;
- A study by experts and economists of the needs of the Palestinian side;
- Provision of an infrastructure able to assume responsibilities, and appointment of a central authority or similar body.

The Palestinian source added: Washington also presented three options to the Palestinians:

- A declaration of principles;
- A side letter containing pledges;
- Practical arrangements on the ground.

The source said the special coordinator notified al-Husayni that the U.S. Administration is concerned about the difficulties the Palestinian negotiating delegation is facing on the street, explaining that theoretical formulas will not have an impact at that level, and that the Palestinians should be given an opportunity to sense what self-rule government means.

The Palestinian source said Ross informed al-Husayni that Washington wants the Palestinians to begin to control matters because this will be the start of a comprehensive package. There is a relationship between the declaration of principles and an early assumption of responsibilities, and this will encourage the Israelis to be flexible in this declaration. This is because such a declaration is a soothing factor, not an alternative, and will not undermine territorial jurisdiction.

Ross was cited as telling al-Husayni that there should also be an executive structure to run the sensitive sectors that will be handed over to the Palestinians, in addition to the Palestinians' responsibility for budget and funds disbursement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian source explained that with regard to Gaza, Ross affirmed that the Israelis are ready to go even further as part of an agreement on a declaration. The Israeli Government talks about limited fields, while the Palestinians need more fields, which they can determine themselves, Ross added.

Ross noted that from the U.S. Administration's point of view, if this experience succeeds, it will be a way to raise funds and a test of self-rule government, allowing the Palestinians to supervise the raising of funds for the territories, in addition to the availability of Arab aid the Palestinians' need for it. [sentence as published]

The Palestinian source said Ross told al-Husayni that he held a telephone conversation with Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan, the Saudi ambassador in Washington, and told him he was trying to arrange a meeting next month because Saudi Arabia has two plans, one on extending urgent financial aid and another dealing with the assumption of responsibilities.

The source added that the special coordinator asked the head of the Palestinian negotiating team to work to develop the infrastructure, so there will be institutions for an executive authority before, or as a result of, elections, and that the assumption of responsibilities before reaching a declaration of principles is not a precondition. Washington said it will submit a written text on the early assumption of responsibilties. This text will discuss nomenclature, financing and the building of institutions with the help of other states and Israel, Ross added.

The Palestinian source pointed out that Ross told al-Husayni that the U.S. position on Resolution 242 is an agreed basis, and that annexation in the final phase will not conform to this resolution. Ross asked the head of the Palestinian team to urge delegation members not to talk about the U.S. position on final status because there is a difference between the kingdom now and the kingdom later, and that the U.S. position will depend on the course of negotiations.

Ross affirmed that the U.S. Administration notified the Palestinians, through al-Husayni, that it is very interested in Jordanian-Palestinian contacts because Washington considers this relationship as a basic issue for the future of the entire region, the Palestinian source added. Ross said the United States appreciates the Palestinian position distinguishing between territorial juriadiction and sovereignty, explaining that the U.S. Department of State seeks to learn about the Israeli reaction to this position.

Fatah Revolutionary Council Issues Statement

LD2307195293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 23 Jul 93

["Text" of the final statement issued by the Fatah Revolutionary Council following its 10th regular session in Tunis 18-21 July]

[Text] Our movement, Fatah, which ignited the Palestinian armed revolution on 1 January 1965, is today waging one of the most grave and greatest of the Palestinian people's political and struggle battles for the sake of freedom and independence. Our movement, Fatah, while waging the battle of independence and negotiations, is facing challenges, conspiracies, and plots that attempt to undermine the strength of the movement and its patriotic vanguard role in achieving national independence and the establishment of the state of Palestine with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Fatah, in its capacity as the backbone of the Palestinian revolution, will not retreat and soften up in the face of these challenges and conspiracies which strive to prevent the Palestinian national objective, which enjoys consensus and Arab and international support: our firm national rights, including our right to return [to Palestine], self-determination, and the establishment of our independent state.

Palestinian participation in the ongoing peace process stems from firm Palestinian national principles. Therefore, the Revolutionary Council stresses the following:

1. Attachment to the resolutions of international legitimacy and implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of land-for-peace, and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people as a basis for the ongoing peace process. It stresses that Israel's total comprehensive withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people are the sole basis for peace and stability in the Middle East, and that the United States' bias toward Israel's point of view does not facilitate the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

2. The Revolutionary Council calls for the strengthening of coordination between the Arab sides taking part in the peace process and hails the stands of the brothers in Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon who have rejected the Israeli and U.S. blackmail and have stressed the priority of the Palestinian solution and their refusal of unilateral solutions [aimed at] containing the firm position adopted by the Palestinians to confront the Israeli and U.S. attempts and maneuvers. Israel and the United States are trying very hard to tear apart the unity of the unified Arab position in the peace negotiations.

The Revolutionary Council also urges Arab leaders to restore Arab solidarity, preserve the unity of the Arab nation, overcome the differences [within it], protect its interests, and endeavor to achieve its goals of freedom

and unity. [It also urges them] to confront the challenges of the new world order which should not be at the expense of our nation and future generations.

3. The Revolutionary Council states that Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Palestine and that it rejects all attempts aimed at bypassing the status of Jerusalem since it is an integral part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 and since UN Security Council resolution 242 applies to it in the same way it applies to all the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967.

4. The Revolutionary Council reviewed the results of the 9th and 10th rounds of the peace talks held in Washington. The Council also stressed the soundness of the Palestinian position in rejecting all the Israeli offers and the U.S. projects proposed since the 9th round and which tried to bypass our aim to [see the] end of the Israeli occupation and the dismantling of the settlements and to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self- determination and the establishment of their independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

5. The blessed Intifadah and the valiant resistance underscore the Palestinian people's determination to drive away the Israeli occupation and to raise our national flag over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem. Therefore, the Revolutionary Council has decided to work for the provision of all the support, capabilities, and efforts [required] to step up our people's blessed Intifadah and valiant resistance until victory is achieved and the Israeli occupation is driven away from the homeland.

The Revolutionary Council salutes the heroic sons of our people wherever they may be, and stresses that their vanguard movement, the Fatah movement, will remain faithful to the pledge to struggle until liberation and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. In this context, the Revolutionary Council salutes our heroic detainees and prisoners in the occupation prisons, as well as the valiant wounded.

6. The Revolutionary Council confirmed the Central Committee's decision on starting a comprehensive national dialogue within the framework of the PLO and its legitimate and constitutional institutions. It assesses highly the outcome of the dialogue held between a delegation of the Fatah movement and the factions and forces of the revolution in Damascus, Khartoum, Tunis, and Amman, and calls for the continuation of that dialogue in order to strengthen our national unity on democratic bases to absorb our people's creative abilities and to mobilize them in the confrontation battle to oust the occupation and to accomplish the missions of liberation and national independence.

The unity of the Palestinian people at home and abroad and the rallying of the sons of our people around the PLO, the leader of our people's struggle, is the firm basis for repossessing our Palestinian people's rights. The [Revolutionary] Council calls for further unity and awareness to defeat the increasing plots against our national unity.

7. The Revolutionary Council emphasizes the central role of the PLO, in its capacity as the point of reference and authority in all matters relating to the Palestinian people, and calls for serious work to change the unjust conditions of the Madrid Conference.

8. The Revolutionary Council emphasizes the special and distinguished relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples and calls for the consolidation of future relations between them on the basis of a confederation between the states of Jordan and Palestine and of the two fraternal peoples's free and voluntary choice.

Finally, the Fatah Revolutionary Council expresses special appreciation for sisterly Tunisia, its president, its government, and its people for their noble nationalist stands on our national cause and for the continuous support they provide at all levels, the latest example of which was the sincere fraternal initiative to get the families of the fraternal Tunisian people to offer assistance to their brothers the struggling Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Glory and eternity to our blessed martyrs. Revolution until victory.

Joint Committee To Discuss Confederation Issue

JN2607091493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Jul 93 pp 1, 26

[By Hamdan al-Hajj]

[Text] Amman—A senior Palestinian source has stated that the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee will hold a new coordination meeting early next month to endorse the joint technical committees' plans and mechanism. These committees were recently formed following His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat early this month.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, the source added that the conferees will discuss all details pertaining to the nature of the future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, specifically the issue of a confederation between Jordan and Palestine which will be discussed in a clear and an in-depth manner. The conferees will also define the nature of each of the specialized technical committees' work, pursue consultations on the various issues related to the distinguished Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, and adopt a unified position on the peace process.

It is worth noting that the Jordanian side to the joint committee comprises Dr. Ma'in Abu-Nuwar, minister of information; Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for Cabinet affairs; Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Dr. Muhammad Mahdi al-Farhan, minister of municipal and rural affairs and

environment. The Palestinian side comprises Mahmud 'Abbas—also known as Abu-Mazin—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and Yasir 'Amr, PLO Executive Committee members; Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team; and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Factions Urge Dialogue, Reject Confederation Plan

JN2507122293 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1040 GMT 25 Jul 93

["Text" of statement issued by the 10 factions opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace talks—place and date not given]

[Text] The 10 Palestinian factions have held a central meeting during which they discussed the new political developments related to the Palestine question. The conferees discussed in detail the results of the 10th round and the U.S. officials' tours of the region as well as their feverish attempt to pressure the Palestinian and Arab sides into accepting the U.S. declaration of principles prior to the 11th round of the Madrid-Washington negotiations. The conferees also discussed in detail our valiant people's intifadah in the occupied homeland in light of the escalating enemy repressive measures, particularly the blockade and closure measures declared by the enemy on 30 March; the continuing acts of terrorism, killing, persecution; the mounting of arrest campaigns and storming of our people's houses; and the difficult economic conditions of our masses as a result of the occupation authorities' policy to starve our people, bring them to their knees, and dissuade them from continuing their opposition to the administrative self-rule plan.

While greeting our masses in the occupied territories and their valiant intifadah, the 10 Palestinian factions urge our masses to continue their resistance of the proposed liquidatory schemes, and escalate the intifadah and achieve its aims of freedom and independence. The conferees decided the following:

To categorically reject the U.S. declaration of principles and warn against the attempts by some to amend the American paper in a manner that harms the essence of the Palestine question and undermines our people's unity and their sovereignty on their land.

To adhere to the initiative of the 10 Palestinian factions for a comprehensive national dialogue as announced in their frequent statements.

To demand the dominating [PLO] leadership to respond to the overwhelming popular will within and outside the occupied territories by embarking on a dialogue on the basis of withdrawing from the bilateral and multilateral negotiations. This will pave the way for this dialogue to attain its aspired positive results.

To demand our Palestinian and Arab masses to be alert and cautious and mount their national vigilance in view of what is being silently concocted with the aim of normalizing relations with the enemy, encouraged by some Palestinian and Arab circles in response to American pressures and conditions.

To reject the proposed calls for the establishment of a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation before our people's accomplishment of their national aims, contrary to the resolutions adopted by the various Palestine National Council sessions. Proposing this idea now is aimed at covering the impasse reached by the negotiations and facilitating the peddling of the American- Zionist liquidation scheme.

To extend a greeting of admiration and pride to the brother deportees in Marj al-Zuhur for their steadfastness and adherence to their right to return home in accordance with Security Council Resolution 799, which called for their collective and immediate return to their homes and families. The 10 Palestinian factions call on the international institutions and bodies to pressure the Rabin government into accepting this resolution.

Long live our people's valiant intifadah. Glory and immortality to our righteous martyrs.

[signed] The 10 Palestinian factions

Official Says Withdrawing From Talks Not Ruled Out

JN2507103493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Jul 93 pp 32, 28

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Excerpt] Whatever ideas U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher brings with him to remove the obstacles and difficulties facing discussions on the Palestinian-Israeli track, which constitute the core of the Middle East conflict and the basis of any political settlement, such ideas will not help the peace process as long as the Americans consider Israel—existence, security, policy, and economy—part of the United States, speak its language, and present Israeli ideas to the Palestinians in various colors.

This was stated to AL-DUSTUR by a prominent pro-peace PLO official, who did not rule out that the Palestinians may have to suspend their participation in the bilateral and multilateral negotiations if the U.S. position remain unchanged. He said that the Palestinian leadership recently studied all possibilities and drew up plans to counter all eventualities, including pressure the Palestinian leadership would face should it decide to suspend participation or withdraw from the negotiations.

The Palestinian official disclosed that the Americans had warned the Palestinian leadership against any move that would obstruct the Middle East peace process, as the Americans put it.

The official referred to a dialogue that had taken place between Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, and an Arab foreign minister. In this dialogue, 'Abd-al-Shafi said: Why should not the Arabs go to the negotiations without the Palestinians if the Palestinians choose not to go? The Arab minister's immediate response was: Then you would not find a single Arab capital ready to receive you. The Palestinian official said that this is what makes the Palestinian leadership currently seek new Arab and international places to which it can go if the Israeli intransigence and U.S. bias for Israel continue, and if all ways are blocked before the Palestinian negotiators to achieve the minimum Palestinian demands. [passage omitted]

Qaddumi Favors Greater Power-Sharing in PLO

NC2307173393 Paris AFP in English 1640 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] Paris, July 23 (AFP)—Faruq Qaddumi, the PLO's top foreign policy official, said Friday [23 July] he favored more power-sharing in the organization.

"We should improve the circulation of information and take into account different opinions within the PLO. We should try to ensure that decisions are more collegial," he told AFP in an interview. He emphasised that even with the present structure, decisions were taken collectively.

Qaddumi, who was ending a two-day visit here, had been asked to comment on a recent call for a "collegial leadership" for the PLO by Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks.

On progress in the talks, Qaddumi reiterated the Palestinian rejection of a U.S. document aimed at bridging Israeli and Palestinian differences over the status of Jerusalem.

"If the West really wants peace in the Middle East, it only has to put pressure on Israel, an artificial state that can only survive with American and European money," he said.

Egypt

Musa Demands 'Immediate End' to Attacks in Lebanon

NC2607124293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1204 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated the need to put an immediate end to the Israeli attacks against south Lebanon. The minister said in a statement today that the Egyptian position on these attacks is known and was made known in a statement issued by an official Foreign Ministry spokesman last Thursday [22 July].

He said Egypt will act, because it is unreasonable to let this issue harm the peace process. These actions must stop immediately.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Arrives, Comments on Ties

NC2607073493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit to Egypt of several days. He will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on bilateral relations. 'Amr Musa received him at the airport.

In an arrival statement, Abu Salih said he came with an open heart and genuine intentions and said he hoped Sudanese-Egyptian relations could be established on firm foundations, considering the neighborly relations and common fateful and security interests. He said he hoped his talks with Musa would succeed in returning bilateral relations to their previous level.

Asked about the possibility of initiating a new stage in bilateral ties, Abu-Salih said: Differences arose between the two countries. We want to get past this, clear things up, and work together. He noted the satisfaction in Egypt and Sudan after the meeting between al-Bashir and Mubarak. He stressed that bilateral relations should be based on their future and strategic goals to serve the next generations.

Asked about Hasan al-Turabi's presence in Sudan and the effect on Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Abu-Salih said al-Turabi is an advocate of strong Egyptian-Sudanese ties and, as an Islamic thinker, calls for (?enhancing) these ties.

Musa welcomed the Sudanese foreign minister and expressed his hope that their talks will be fruitful, noting Abu-Salih's remarks about genuine intentions. Musa said: We are working to establish [words indistinct] between the two fraternal countries. He said there is great hope that we will overcome the difficulties and address differences in line with the interests of the two peoples and the Arab nation and regional stability.

'Frank, Direct' Talks Begin

NC2607125793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that his talks with Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih, the first session of which ended at noon today, were frank and direct and covered every aspect of bilateral relations.

He said he held a closed meeting with the Sudanese foreign minister, which the members of the two delegations joined later. He said another meeting will be held this evening at the Foreign Ministry, when the talks will resume. A third meeting will be held at the Foreign Ministry tomorrow morning.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih said afterward that they discussed every aspect of Egyptian-Sudanese relations. He described the future of these relations as good. On the Israeli attacks on south Lebanon, Foreign Minister Musa commented: It is not sensible to allow this topic to affect the peace process. He said the operations must stop immediately.

Libyans Deliver Message From al-Qadhdhafi to Mubarak

NC2507110893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1039 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—This afternoon in the Presidential Office, President *Muhammad* Husni Mubarak received Jum'ah al-Fazzani, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Integration with the Republic of Sudan Affairs, and Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation. The meeting was attended by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Al-Fazzani said afterward that he handed President Mubarak a message from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, on Egyptian-Libyan relations and ways to strengthen them.

In his statement, al-Fazzani said the brother colonel asked him to convey the blessings and support of the Libyan people to the Arab Egyptian people on the renomination of President Mubarak for a third term. He said this popular agreement expresses the Egyptian people's loyalty to President Mubarak, who is loyal to his people.

He added that Col. al-Qadhdhafi also asked him to convey his congratulations on the 41st anniversary of the 23 July revolution.

'Radical' Group Denounces Clinton, Mubarak at Prayers

NC2307211693 Paris AFP in English 2009 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, July 23 (AFP)—The radical al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah on Friday [23 July] slammed President Bill Clinton's foreign policy and described the U.S. leader as "pro-homosexuals and pro-prostitutes."

The Islamic militants, during Friday prayers at the al-Rahmah mosque here, also criticized Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's unopposed nomination for a third term, accusing him of not applying God's law or guiding the country to Islamic goals.

On Thursday, Mubarak vowed he would use his third term in office to crush Muslim extremists and prevent them from wrecking the Egyptian economy.

One al-Jama'ah member, addressing Clinton during a sermon, said: "Issue human rights charters, then let the people of Bosnia be massacred, use all your might to strike at the Somali people, deprive Iraqi children of food and let their blood be spilled, as you are the ally of homosexuals and prostitutes."

The verbal assault came as U.S. immigration authorities were holding Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the al-Jama'ah's spiritual leader, who is wanted in Egypt on charges of fomenting rebellion, and after the arrest of two more people—followers of the blind cleric—in connection with a foiled plot to bomb New York City landmarks.

Several other of the shaykh's supporters have been charged in connection with the February 26 bombing of New York's World Trade Center that killed six people and injured more than 1,000.

The fundamentalists here recited the Muslim "prayer for the absent" in memory of fellow militants recently hanged by the authorities and others killed in clashes with the authorities.

Fifteen people have been hanged since May following trials by military tribunals that hand down swifter and harsher punishments than civilian courts.

On Monday, the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah claimed an attack in downtown Cairo that missed its target—the chairman of the high military court—but killed two militants, a policeman and a passerby.

Under close police surveillance, the al-Jama'ah distributed anti-American leaflets following the Friday prayers, slamming the U.S. for its military operations in Iraq and Somalia and calling it "The Great Satan."

Asyut is a Muslim fundamentalist stronghold in Upper (southern) Egypt.

The militants, who want to install an Iranian-style Islamic regime in Egypt, have attacked the tourist industry, a vital source of foreign revenue. Their battle with the security forces has killed more than 170 people since March 1992, including three tourists.

The al-Jama'ah, which has been responsible for most of the fundamentalist attacks, has said it will kill Mubarak because of the hangings.

Source Denies Report on Explosion in Ismailia

NC2607105093 Cairo MENA in English 1040 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, July 26—(MENA)—A senior security source today denied the reports carried by a foreign broadcast claiming that an explosion took place near a bus stop in the city of Ismailia.

The report, carried in Arabic, is devoid of truth, the same source added.

Libya

Al-Muntasir Interviewed on Sanctions, Arab Relations

PM2307142293 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 23 Jul 93 p 28

[Interview with 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] ['Ajjaj] The Security Council will convene next month, August, to consider stepping up the sanctions against Libya. Have any preparations been made to deny this trend the opportunity?

[Al-Muntasir] And why will they step up or escalate the sanctions?

['Ajjaj] They announced before that this is the final deadline for Libya to comply with the Security Council resolutions.

[Al-Muntasir] We must acknowledge that the imposition of the sanctions was wrong, and that any further sanctions will harm not only Libya but also neighboring states, states which purchase and deal in Libyan oil, and states which deal with Libya commercially. If oil exports are banned, Arab and foreign workers in Libya—and there are large numbers of them from Egypt, Chad, and Niger—will be affected. This is because banning oil exports means halting economic operations. Workers will return to their countries carrying with them the unemployment problem and looking for employment opportunities. Furthermore, there are U.S. allies who rely mainly on Libyan oil, like Germany, Italy, Spain, and France. These will be affected, and the economic situation in Europe is not in excellent shape. The economic crisis will be aggravated. I cannot imagine the U.S. President taking a decision or a measure that harms not only Libya but his allies and friends in the region: his

German, Italian, and Spanish allies and his friends in the region —Egypt, Tunisia, Chad, and Niger. For all these reasons, I do not believe that the sanctions will be stepped up next month.

['Ajjaj] Despite all these reasons and their awareness of them, they announced that this is the final deadline.

[Al-Muntasir] They announce this every time.

['Ajjaj] Has the policy of trying to open channels with the new U.S. Administration borne fruit?

[Al-Muntasir] Regrettably, it has produced nothing.

['Ajjaj] Are there specific reasons for that?

[Al-Muntasir] I do not know.

['Ajjaj] But you have had many connections with officials of U.S. oil companies, which influence U.S. political decisionmaking. Have you not exploited these connections to open a dialogue with the Americans?

[Al-Muntasir] In our view, the problem is that the new administration inherited problems which it is unable to tackle, as there are many of them. This is why we find that present U.S. policies are sometimes an extension and a continuation of the U.S. policies in the days of Bush. In Clinton's era they still have not drawn up new political features, especially at the international level. This can be seen not only in the Libyan crisis, but in several other issues tackled by President Clinton's administration, including economic problems, for which he has taken only some steps to implement his economic program.

['Ajjaj] Is it possible to expect some change in the U.S. Administration's policy later, after its ideas have crystallized completely?

[Al-Muntasir] They have no other option. They must change their position on all issues. They must, for example, look for a solution to the Lockerbie problem that does not harm Washington or Libya.

['Ajjaj] You said once that Germany is an acceptable place in which the suspects could stand trial.

[Al-Muntasir] We agree to the suspects being tried in any state except three: the United States, Britain, and France. But they are still refusing. We accept that the investigation and trial be conducted in any other world state.

['Ajjaj] But was Germany discussed as a place for the trial, after it was proposed?

[Al-Muntasir] We proposed several states, not just Germany, and they have to choose.

['Ajjaj] It seems that the Libyan position has changed and become more rigid, even though some people banked on its flexibility.

[Al-Muntasir] What more do they want? We have nothing to offer. What they want is the handover — which we cannot do.

['Ajjaj] Why?

[Al-Muntasir] Libyan law and political logic prohibit the handover. Besides, why should we hand over our citizens to another state?

['Ajjaj] There was a view that your assumption of this post in the light of your previous connections with the U.S. oil companies could help to resolve the crisis.

[Al-Muntasir] Our position has been clear from the outset. We offered to allow the investigation and trial to be conducted outside the three states. It is they who have rejected our offer since the beginning. They also rejected Malta, saying it is under Libya's control. It was a mistake and they know that this allegation is false. Malta is not under our control.

['Ajjaj] Does Libya still blame the Arab states for their compliance with the resolution imposing sanctions on Libya?

[Al-Muntasir] The blame still exists, but we appreciate their position and know the circumstances surrounding the issue.

['Ajjaj] What is required of the seven-member committee from now until August?

[Al-Muntasir] I have not yet met with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. However, the committee's task is to find a peaceful solution to the issue.

['Ajjaj] How?

[Al-Muntasir] We are willing to eliminate all problems and implement all the requests submitted by the other parties. We have rejected nothing except that the suspects be investigated and tried in the three states. They—the seven-member committee, or even the United States and Britain—must choose another state in which to conduct the investigation and trial.

['Ajjaj] The idea of setting up a court under UN supervision was proposed.

[Al-Muntasir] That was not offered to us. However, we are in favor of any trial outside the two countries. There is no objection.

['Ajjaj] It has been noted that you visit Iran and Mohammad 'Ali Besharati visited Libya, where he met with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. Are there any Libyan efforts to bring Egypt's and Tehran's views closer? And are these any specific reasons for these visits?

[Al-Muntasir] There is no specific reason. I visited Tehran within the framework of a tour after my participation in the conference of the Islamic states' foreign ministers held in Pakistan. I visited a number of Asian

states, including Iran. There were no specific or special reasons for this visit. Besharati's visit was within the framework of a tour which took him to some Arab Maghreb states. He did not visit Libya particularly, nor did I visit Tehran specifically. Nor did he come to Libya in particular.

['Ajjaj] Is there any change in Libyan political positions on the Arab-Israeli conflict?

[Al-Muntasir] Not at all. Why should there be a change?

['Ajjaj] All the indications are that there is something new in the Libyan policy toward Israel.

[Al-Muntasir] I am the foreign minister, and I confirm to you that there is no change. My statements at conferences on this issue are still the same and have not changed—which emphasizes previous positions.

['Ajjaj] What about the Libyan pilgrims' visit to Jerusalem?

[Al-Muntasir] That is a private position by a number of Libyans for which they are held accountable. They apologized for this step, which was not an official position on the part of the Libyan Government.

['Ajjaj] What about the tripartite dialogue which Libya is expected to host this month among Muslim, Christian, and Jewish scholars?

[Al-Muntasir] It is a tripartite dialogue among Muslims, Christians, and non-Israeli Jews. A date has not been set for it yet. That is the task of the society supervising the dialogue. It is the Mediterranean society for dialogue among religions. Its board of directors includes various nationalities. It is headed by Giulio Andreotti. And it includes a number of Egyptians and Libyans and is interested in religious dialogue among the Mediterranean states.

['Ajjaj] Are you satisfied with the Maghreb Union?

[Al-Muntasir] We hope the Union's activities will increase, because they were almost frozen in the past period as a result of some crisis. The brothers in Tunisia are in charge of the presidency and play an important role in reactivating the Union and surmounting the effects of the Lockerbie crisis and the Saharan problem.

['Ajjaj] Has the Libyan mediation between Egypt and Sudan borne fruit? And how do you visualize a solution to the outstanding problems between them?

[Al-Muntasir] The problems between Egypt and Sudan must be solved between them without any intervention from any other parties. They are bound by the Nile Valley and are capable of resolving their disputes. We believe that Egypt needs Sudan and Sudan needs Egypt. Thus these problems must be solved.

Envoy Condemns Alleged Statements by French Ambassador

NC2607133693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1258 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent representative to the Arab League, has condemned statements by the French ambassador in Tunisia in which he allegedly accused Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, of personal involvement in the explosion of the American plane over Lockerbie, Scotland.

In a statement to MENA today, al-Bishari said: If we ascertain that the French ambassador in Tunisia made such a statement—something we believe is far-fetched—then we would reject it because it is bad thinking. It is not right for the representative of a country with which we have diplomatic relations, irrespective of the extent of the differences between us, to involve the name of the leader of the Libyan revolution, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, in such an issue.

He said there is a legal file regarding this issue which is being investigated. If it is presented to an impartial court, we believe that some of the suspected Libyan citizens will be cleared.

Sudan

Foreign Ministry Officials Preview Talks With Egypt

NC2407161093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 24 Jul (MENA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih leaves for Cairo Sunday [25 July] morning on a three-day visit during which he will hold talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. The talks fall within the framework of the recent agreement reached between Presidents Husni Mubarak and 'Umar al-Bashir on the sidelines of the African summit.

The talks will deal with issues of dispute; proposals for solutions will be prepared and forwarded to Presidents Mubarak and al-Bashir.

This morning, Dr. Abu-Salih received Egyptian Ambassador to Sudan Hasan Jad-al-Haqq, who handed the minister a message from 'Amr Musa on the arrangements for their meeting on Monday.

The Egyptian ambassador said Egypt welcomes the Sudanese delegation and hopes the talks will succeed in a manner that promotes bilateral ties and serves the two fraternal peoples. [passage omitted]

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry expressed hope that Monday's talks between 'Amr Musa and Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih will help turn over a new leaf in the two

countries' relations—one that disregards what has happened in recent days and considers the fact that Egypt and Sudan are two sisters standing in the same trench.

Mubarak Adam al-Hadi, director of the Egypt Department at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, said the two countries must master their own decisions and solve their problems within the bilateral, Arab, or African frameworks. He asserted that the two countries do not need the trusteeship of a third country.

Al-Hadi stressed the need to define the disputed issues and work out mechanisms for full and comprehensive solutions to all problems between Egypt and Sudan.

Government Releases Two More Egyptian Workers

NC2407144293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Jul (MENA)—The Sudanese security authorities today released two other Egyptians held since June, and efforts to release the remaining detainees are still being made.

The two freed Egyptians work for Egypt Fortified Cement Works Company-Khartoum branch—one at the secretarial office and the other as a store keeper. Their names are Sabri 'Abd-al-Mun'im and 'Atif Ahmad.

On 24 and 26 June, Sudanese security arrested 20 Egyptians working for Egyptian companies and institutions in Sudan. It released six on 5 July, one on 19 July, and four last Thursday. This means seven Egyptians are still held by the Sudanese authorities.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Rejects Iraqi Border Claims

LD2307153193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0817 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Excerpts] United Nations, 23 Jul (KUNA)—The State of Kuwait stressed its absolute rejection of Iraqi allegations regarding the decision of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border demarcation committee that was endorsed unanimously by the UN Security Council and pointed out that the Iraqi regime's continued repetition of these stances "is only evidence of intransigence, a lack of credibility, and a lack of respect for international obligations."

In a message to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, welcomed the statement issued by the Security Council on 28 June 1993. The statement emphasized an international collective stance that rejects Iraqi claims on Kuwaiti sovereignty and its independence and refuses to compromise on its regional security, its people's right to express their will, and the importance of maintaining its existence and distinctive character.

Shaykh Sabah's message, which was delivered last evening to Dr. Butrus-Ghali by Muhammad 'Abdullah Abu al-Hasan, permanent envoy of the State of Kuwait at the United Nations. The message came in reply to a message addressed by Iraqi Foreign Affairs Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to the UN secretary general on 8 June 1993 on Iraq's position in connection with Security Council Resolution No. 833 concerning the demarcation of the borders between Iraq and Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah refuted claims and allegations in the Iraqi foreign minister's message of 7 June [as received] 1993 to the UN secretary general, pointing out that Dr. Butrus-Ghali and the Security Council had rejected the Iraqi refusal to accept the decision of the Commission in charge of the demarcation of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti boundaries. He added: "The Iraqi message completely ignored the fact that the Security Council had asked the secretary general to help in the demarcation of the boundaries between Kuwait and Iraq in accordance with the stipulations set out in Chapter 7 of Article 39 of the UN Charter, which allows him to ask the Security Council to decide whether events taking place were threatening peace or not and whether they were acts or aggression or not and to take appropriate recommendations and measures in accordance with Articles 41 and 43 on safeguarding international peace." [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah asserted in his message that it was an opportunity to remind that Iraq's acceptance of Resolution 687 was also ratified by the Iraqi National Assembly and not only by the Iraqi Government—a clear and unambiguous indication that both the legislative and executive powers had accepted Resolution 678, which insisted upon demarcation—a fact that disproves any claim that Resolution 678 was imposed upon Iraq and that the latter was not allowed to freely adopt a suitable stance on the occasion.

Shaykh Sabah added that opposition to the decisions of the commission in charge of boundary demarcation and the UN Security Council resolutions, by claiming that such resolutions were the product of an international conspiracy against Iraq, is merely a means to eschew Iraq's commitment before the Security Council and the international community and are an attempt to impose a wrong viewpoint that will serve Iraq's aggressive and expansionist schemes in the region.

Shaykh Sabah referred to assertions in the Iraqi message on the resignation of the erstwhile chairman of the boundary commission, which claimed that he had resigned because he was hesitating on whether to begin demarcation of boundaries in Khawr 'Abdallah. Such claims were merely a hazardous guess that has nothing to do with reality, but were made without reference to the documents and the facts, which have firmly established that the former chairman had asked in his letter of resignation not to renew his contract for personal reasons, which had something to do with his commitments to his government, Shaykh Sabah added.

The Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister said in his message to the UN secretary general that Iraq objects, in particular, to the authority of the borders demarcation committee in connection with the demarcation in Khawr 'Abdallah on the basis of incorrect considerations. We would like here to clarify the following points:

To claim that Khawr 'Abdallah does not comply with the description of a territorial sea is a disregard for the international law of the sea, in general, and the law of the territorial sea, in particular, which has become one of the bases of the international conventions recorded in the 1982 Law of the Sea. [passage omitted]

Also, to claim that the Khawr 'Abdallah area is not considered a territorial sea is proof against Iraq's claim and not for it, because to say this must necessarily mean that the Khawr 'Abdallah area is part of the internal waters between the two countries. It is logically incomprehensible and inconceivable for the process of demarcating the borders between two countries not to include the determination of the internal waters between them wherever these waters interlock. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi message claims that the border description adopted by the UN Security Council as a basis for the demarcation of the border did not deal with the description of the border in the Khawr 'Abdallah region; thus, there is no agreed definition of the border by all the concerned parties. Regarding this, Shaykh Sabah said that Iraq forgets the demarcation formula relied upon by the committee, which includes the arrangement concerning the islands, which constitutes an indivisible part of the existing borders, which is in turn mentioned in the exchange of memoranda for 1992. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah said in his message to the UN secretary general that the claim in the Iraqi message that the Khawr 'Abdallah region was not made up of both states' territorial waters contradicted not only reality and truth, but also the previous Iraqi stance as shown in the [word indistinct] report that was drawn up at the request of the Iraqi Government in 1959 and that pointed out that the Iraqi territorial waters extended as far as the median line. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah added that Iraq's claim that the resolutions adopted by the committee constitute, in total, a political decision imposed on Iraq without taking into consideration Iraq's interests is a claim that the facts and the behavior of Iraq's representative on the demarcation committee contradict. He said that Iraq's representative agreed with the committee at its first meeting that the work of the committee is purely technical and that the political aspect had been dealt with by the Security Council. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah pointed out in his message to the UN secretary general that one of the resolutions adopted by the boundary commission on Khur Zubayr put the latter completely under Iraqi sovereignty, thus denying Kuwait's rights to it. Although Kuwait voted against it, it was passed by a majority and Kuwait has accepted since, he added. He pointed out that the Iraqi message itself confirmed that the commission had given enough time for talks between Kuwait and Iraq in order to examine the maritime region in dispute, and to make public their respective stances over it. Shaykh Sabah added, however, that the truth behind the claims of the Iraqi message was not a wish for a sea outlet but a desire for expansion and hegemony.

Shaykh Sabah told Dr. Butrus-Ghali that the letter and spirit of the Iraqi message should be enough for the UN Security Council to come to the conclusion that Iraq has violated its first legal commitment under UN Security Council Resolution 687 dated 1991, which asks both Iraq and Kuwait to respect their international boundaries and to accept the status of the islands as stipulated by the protocol, which was agreed upon by the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Iraq on relations of friendship and relevant recognition.

Shaykh Sabah concluded his message by asserting that Iraq cannot for the time being ask the Security Council to lift part of the sanctions against it, as long as it has not complied with the condition that it should respect Kuwait's sovereignty and independence and its boundaries as demarcated by the boundary commission and UN Security Council Resolution 883 of 1993.

National Assembly Suspends Central Bank's Budget

LD2407180493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1652 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 24 Jul (KUNA)—[passage omitted] The National Council has suspended the budget of the Central Bank of Kuwait amid criticism from deputies of its failure to monitor the performance of local banks. They said the bank is responsible for the disastrous indebtedness and the crisis in the stock market. [passage omitted]

Deputy Mubarak al-Duwaylah asked the Central Bank to publish the report he prepared during the occupation, which makes accusations of treachery and speculation on the part of some bank officials. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Papers on Oil Quota, Israeli Attacks on Lebanon

LD2607134393 Riyadh SPA in English 1234 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Riyadh, July 26, SPA—Saudi newspapers commented editorially today on a number of local, Arab and international issues.

Under an editorial entitled "The Kingdom and the Stablity of World Markets", the Jeddah-based AL-BILAD said all economic and political circles in the world were aware of the great role of the Kingdom in maintaining the stability of the world oil market by following moderate policies that take into consideration the joint interests of consumers and producers.

In view of the mixed interests and relations it was improper and undesired to cause chaos in the world oil market because this means a negative impact in the long run on both consumers and producers alike and the best means to maintain cooperation between all parties in a way that would preserve the interests of each party, AL-BILAD said.

The paper allegations and claims that the Kingdom was not abiding by its quota have no single grain of truth because all concerned parties know well that the Kingdom had and will remain an staunch defender of the interests of consumers and producers alike. The paper noted the stand of the Kingdom during the Gulf War when the Kingdom took the initiative to protect the oil market and the world economic [as received] against a strong shock that would have sent the global economy into chaos.

The Jeddah-based UKAZ commented on the Israeli air attacks on different parts of Lebanon and which was considered the biggest of their kind since its invasion of Lebanon in 1982. The paper said the Israeli enemy was justifying its recent attack as a defensive act against the missile attacks by the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance against its forces in southern Lebanon and the Jewish settlements in northern occupied Palestine. The paper referred to the threats made by the Israeli chief of staff to the Palestinian and Lebanese fighters to retaliate for any attack they launch against the settlements while forgetting the naked fact that those fighters were fighting to restore their lands which Israel has taken by force.

The criminal Israeli air attacks coincided with current efforts being made to achieve a breakthrough in the peace talks which have reached a deadlock after ten rounds of hectic negotiations. The paper said Israel was trying to provoke Syria in order to undermine the peace talks.

Eritrean President, Delegation Depart 24 Jul

LD2407112993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1050 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Yanbu', 24 Jul (SPA)—His Excellency President Isayas Aferwerki, president of Eritrea, and the delegation accompanying him left the city of Yanbu' this morning on the way back to their country after a visit to the Kingdom that lasted several days. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

OPEC Chairman Meets With Officials, Praises Efforts

JN2507131293 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], today received a letter from His Excellency Gabonese President El Hadj Omar Bongo on bilateral relations and issues of common concern.

His Highness Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, vice president and prime minister, also received a similar letter from Mr. Bongo. The two letters were handed to His Highness Sultan Bin- Zayid Al Nuhayyan when he received in his office today His Excellency Jean Ping, the OPEC chairman and Gabonese mines and energy minister, who is currently visiting the country on a tour of the region.

Shaykh Sultan welcomed Mr. Ping and praised his contacts with OPEC members to discuss the oil market and attempt to overcome the current crisis.

His highness emphasized the eagerness of President Zayid and Abu Dhabi Heir Apparent Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces and chairman of the Higher Oil Board, to maintain OPEC unity. He stressed the importance of preserving agreement among the member states on the production quota and securing their adherence to this quota.

Shaykh Sultan voiced the UAE's readiness to back OPEC efforts to realize its strategy for the benefit of both the producers and consumers and the UAE's commitment to any agreement between OPEC and its member states.

For his part, Mr. Ping welcomed the firm and principled UAE stand in supporting OPEC and backing its decisions for the benefit of all. He expressed satisfaction with his meeting with Shaykh Zayid and noted encouraging proposals he received for backing the organization to maintain its unity and to exert concerted efforts with the member states to make a success of the OPEC emergency meeting that will be held within the next few days.

The meeting was attended by Rakkad Bin-Salim al-Rakkad, minister of public works and housing and acting petroleum and natural resources minister.

Yemen

'Arafat Arrives, Comments on Talks, Confederation

JN2307210693 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, arrived in Sanaa this evening on a visit to our country during which he will meet with the political leadership to discuss latest developments in the Palestinian arena.

In a statement to the Yemeni news agency, SABA', the Palestinian president reiterated his call for an Arab summit to support the Palestine question, particularly in light of the difficult circumstances facing the Palestinians. The Palestinian negotiators are facing pressures and a financial siege, and the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories are facing harsh economic conditions, which have reached the point of famine in the occupied Gaza Strip.

He said coordination among the Arab countries bordering Israel in support of the Palestinians is going on, but we are calling for coordination among all Arab countries.

Asked about the progress of the peace negotiations, brother Yasir 'Arafat said the negotiations have reached a dead end due to the latest U.S. paper, whcih was biased toward the Israeli side. He said it attempted to bypass the terms of reference of the peace process—namely, land for peace, and the implementation of Resolution 242 and 338, which means withdrawal from all occupied Arab-Palestinian territories including holy Jerusalem, the political rights of the Palestinian people, and security for all parties in the region.

He said: The talks reached a real stalemate due to the intervention of the U.S. sponsor in favor of the Israeli view.

On the latest developments concerning the Palestinian deportees, he said the latest meeting between the Palestinian delegation and the U.S. Administration's delegation, led by Dennis Ross, thoroughly discussed this subject. We received promises that this issue will be gradually resolved, and that 70 sick deportees will be repatriated immediately in view of their cases. We are waiting the implementation of these promises.

On coordination with Jordan, brother Yasir 'Arafat said the subject of confederation between the state of Palestine and Jordan is a Palestinian decision that was unanimously adopted by the Palestine National Council in 1993 [date as heard]. He said the call for confederation between the state of Palestine and Jordan will be implemented in accordance with the free will of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. He said that there is a written agreement between the state of Palestine and Jordan on confederation.

He said that during his last visit to Amman, he discussed this union during his meeting with King Husayn. He said certain steps were adopted to hold serious discussions of this issue through five committees, a higher committee, and a committee led by the Jordanian king and the president of the state of Palestine.

He was received at the airport by 'Ali Salamah, a member of the Public Committee of the General People's Congress; Yahya Rabah, the ambassador of the state of Palestine in Sanaa; a representative from the Protocol Department at the Presidential Council; and a number of the Palestinian revolution's cadres in Sanaa.

Meets With Salih, Departs

JN2407154393 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, and Salim Salih Muhammad, Presidential Council member, received brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine.

Talks at the meeting dealt with Palestinian, Arab, and international developments, and issues that concern our Arab nation.

The Palestinian president briefed his brother the Presidential Council chairman on the latest Palestinian developments in light of the difficulties that the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations face and the Palestinian position on these developments. He explained the repressive practices the Palestinian citizens face in the occupied Arab territories at the hands of the Israeli forces, in addition to the problem of the Palestinian deportees in Marj al-Zuhur in southern Lebanon.

The brother president emphasized our country's principled position in support of the Palestinian people's struggle and the popular Palestinian intifadah until the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people have been restored and an independent state on Palestinian national soil has been created. [passage omitted]

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Sanaa this afternoon at the end of a short visit to our country.

Council Condemns 'Brutal' Israeli Attack on Lebanon

JN2607133393 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Excerpt] The Presidential Council held a meeting today headed by brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council chairman. The council discussed a number of issues relating to national development and construction.

The Council also reviewed developments in the Lebanese, Arab, and international arenas. The Council expressed its condemnation and denunciation of the Israeli aggression against sisterly Lebanon, which resulted in the death of several innocent victims from the fraternal Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

The Council urged the international community and the forces of international legitimacy to shoulder their responsibility and stop the brutal and repeated Israeli aggressions against sisterly Lebanon. [passage omitted]

President Salih Receives Russian Military Official

JN2507141493 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has received General (Leokaliev), first deputy chief of the Russian General Staff of the Armed Forces, who conveyed to the brother president a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin expressing the Russian leadership's congratulations to our people on their successes in the democratic field. The message also deals with relations between the two friendly countries.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed aspects of bilateral cooperation in the military field. They discussed the means to develop and strengthen this cooperation and expand its horizons in a manner that serves joint interests and is in line with the traditional friendly relations between our country and Russia.

The brother president praised the level of bilateral cooperation. He reaffirmed our country's willingness to develop these entrenched relations in a manner that translates the aspirations of the two friendly peoples and achieves common benefits and interests.

The meeting was attended by brother Staff Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir, minister of defense; Brother Staff Colonel Muhammad Haytham, deputy chairman of the General Staff; and the Russian charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

UN To Begin Setting Up Surveillance Cameras 26 Jul

NC2607091393 Paris AFP in English 0838 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, July 26 (AFP)—A U.N. arms team was to start work Monday on setting up cameras at two missile test sites, in the "first concrete step" toward long-term monitoring of Iraq's weapons programme, the team leader said.

Bill Eckert, charged with installing the surveillance cameras, said: "We will be starting. We will go through things like trenches and poles, and we will begin hanging the hardware tomorrow."

The team, all Americans, and four technical experts later travelled to the sites at al-Yawm al-'Azim and Rafah, 60 kilometres (40 miles) south of Baghdad, to start work.

Eckert said on arrival here Sunday that the installation of the cameras was "the first concrete step" toward long-term monitoring of President Saddam Husayn's post-war military potential.

An interim agreement was reached last week between the United Nations and Baghdad, defusing a crisis over Iraq's weapons programme and the threat of U.S. military action, under which the cameras will be installed but not switched on.

Further negotiations on long-term monitoring are due to take place in New York at the end of August or early September.

UN 'Legally Bound' To Lift Economic Blockade

JN2407081293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0638 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has warned against any attempt to reshuffle the cards and raise issues designed to mobilize public opinion in favor of denying Iraq the chance to have the blockade lifted and its regional and international relations restored.

Today, in an article headlined "If America Agrees", the paper says the victims of the U.S. dictatorship and the broad Western and U.S. circles that initially supported the blockade now view with suspicion any attempt to fabricate crises to postpone the lifting of the blockade.

In an article by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar, the paper sheds light on the attempt of some official or semi-official U.S. and British circles to reshuffle the cards against the backdrop of controversial issues, such as the "border" between Iraq and Kuwait and the issue of so-called Kuwaiti prisoners and human rights. These issues have nothing to do with the question of lifting or maintaining the blockade, especially since Iraq has implemented its obligations under the UN Security Council resolutions.

The paper notes that Rolf Ekeus, the executive chairman of the Special Commission supervising disarmament, acknowledged that Iraq has fulfilled 95 percent of its obligations under Resolution 687. In light of this, the UN Security Council is legally bound to lift the blockade, albeit partially, in order to allow Iraq to resume its oil exports. The whole world is learning this fact.

The paper adds that in light of this fact, America and Britain will face further internal and external criticism. They will be in a weak defensive position, legally and morally.

The paper says the time when America could fabricate crises and find subordinates with absolute ease is over. This is especially true because the world realizes how serious and sincere Iraq is about implementing its obligations—something acknowledged by Ekeus.

Concluding its article, the paper urges the Iraqi people to continue their steadfastness and sacrifices and to adhere to the sacred issues of its future, sovereignty, and national independence to make the evil forces yield to the will of right and justice, to cut the path of suffering, and break the blockade with the power of struggle and logic.

U.S. Said Fabricating Crisis With Missile Allegation

JN2507081093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jul (INA)—An official spokesman today categorically denied that any Iraqi defense position in the southern sector locked its radar on or fired antiaircraft missiles at U.S. aircraft last night. Also, no air defense position in the sector has been hit by a HARM anti-radar missile fired by one of the U.S. planes.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency today, the spokesman described the U.S. Defense Ministry's announcement that one of the U.S. pilots who violate Iraqi airspace in the south felt that a radar locked onto him, prompting him to fire a HARM anti-radar missile, and that he subsequently felt that surface-to-air missiles were fired against a U.S. air patrol in the region, as either hallucination on the part of the pilot, or an attempt by U.S. Administration circles to fabricate a crisis, as they often do from time to time for exposed political purposes.

Radar Incident U.S. 'Illusion'

JN2507133793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1050 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] An American pilot fired a HARM missile on one of our air defense positions in the southern sector. U.S. military sources claimed that the U.S. pilot committed this folly because he imagined that an Iraqi radar locked on to him. The sources added that because of this

illusion, or feeling, the pilot fired the missile. This feeble U.S. pretext gives the impression that it is sufficient to have a mere feeling of an imagined danger to commit an aggressive act gainst Iraq. This is the same feeble pretext that the U.S. circles have used to justify all kinds of follies. They used it when the U.S. pilots carried out attacks in southern or northern Iraq, not only against our air defenses, but also against innocent Iraqi citizens on farms or in civilian areas. Such attacks took place near the Saddam Dam on the outskirts of Ninawa Governorate and in wheat fields.

If the mere feeling of a U.S. pilot can sufficiently justify such folly to international public opinion, as U.S. circles believe, it equals the sanctioning of further U.S. aggressive acts and provocative follies against the independent, sovereign state of Iraq and against its secure, innocent citizens. It would mean giving the logic of brute, aggressive force the upper hand over international laws and norms. It would also mean letting the ugliest forms of the spiteful law of the jungle dominate relations among states and peoples of the world. The U.S. Administration seems, or tries to seem, to be the only guardian of international law and norms. Obviously, this is a blatant contradiction that draws contempt rather than admiration.

As for Iraq and its children, they are fully aware of the true meaning of this cowardly, criminal act by this U.S. pilot. Iraq knows well that this illusion of the U.S. pilot and his seniors is only a ridiculous pretext. Among other things, it shows the U.S. persistence in committing follies to provoke and intimidate Iraq, even after Iraq has proven that it is far greater than all such provocations and than all follies of the treacherous aggression, and that it does not yield to America's ambitions and unjust, aggressive practices. Likewise, Iraq is certain that such U.S. follies are nothing but a futile attempt to adhere to the so-called no-fly zones that the U.S. Administration has imposed on specific areas in northern and southern Iraq. Iraq has made its position very clear on the infamous so-called no-fly zones north of the 36th Parallel and south of the 32d Parallel.

Moreover, Iraq is fully aware that follies such as those committed by the U.S. pilot who fired a HARM missile against one of Iraq's air defenses in the southern sector, means that the U.S. Administration is still trying to reassure its friends and agents. These friends and agents are always terrified and believe—and what a stupid belief it is—that such idiotic actions can rid them of their illusions, which are making them restless, or at least allay their fears, even if this is a temporary thing, so that they can sleep reassured that the U.S. ally is always on their side.

In any event, we say that such U.S. stupidity will expose to the world the feebleness and frailty of U.S. pilots. It will also show the conspicuous official U.S. misconduct, given the pretexts cited by the U.S. Administration to justify such stupidity. Both represent a scandal that evokes world ridicule of the United States and its adopted illusions that attempt to justify aggression against a defenseless nation. The United States—with all its alleged might—commits such follies and supports the pilots who commit them based on feelings and illusions created by their inner fear and panic. Such acts are indeed the outcome of fear of the Iraq of patience, steadfastness, and resolve to survive—the Iraq of great leader Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, and may God watch over Iraq and its people by protecting its leader and maintaining its strong will.

Foreign Ministry Protests Alleged Airspace Violations

U-2 Incursions Denounced

JN2607094993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] New York, 26 Jul (INA)—Iraq has informed the United Nations that the U.S. spy plane U-2 has continued to violate Iraq's airspace on the pretext of conducting an aerial survey for the UN Special Commission.

In a letter by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to UN Secretary-General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Iraq said the U-2 plane violated its airspace coming from Saudi Arabia on 6, 10, 12 July, overflying large areas for three to five hours before heading back for its base in Saudi Arabia.

The foreign minister denounced the unwarranted violations of Iraq's airspace, noting that the violations of this plane have totaled 148. He reaffirmed Iraq's position that this plane is being used for purposes other than those defined by the Security Council and that its activity prejudices Iraq's sovereignty and security.

TR-1 Overflights Decried

JN2507112793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0858 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] New York, 25 Jul (INA)—Iraq has again protested to the UN General Secretariat the continued violation of its airspace by U.S. aircraft for purposes of provocation, surveillance, and dropping flares.

In a memorandum of protest to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali yesterday, Iraq said that during the period 13-19 July, the U.S. planes continued to violate Iraqi airspace, carrying out 580 hostile air sorties over various areas in northern and southern Iraq.

A U.S. TR-1 reconnaissance plane violated Iraqi airspace over the al-'Amarah, al-Nasiriyah, al-Qurnah, and al-Shatrah areas on 13 July. The plane then flew back in the direction of Saudi Arabia.

The memorandum added that on the same day, a hostile formation dropped red flares over the al-Amghar border area.

A hostile two-plane formation violated the airspace over the Bayjura [placename as received] area in Mosul on 15 July. On the same day, the planes of aggression dropped six flares on the Fa'idah area in Dahuk Governorate.

On 19 July, a U.S. TR-1 plane violated Iraqi airspace over the al-Basrah, al-'Amarah, al-Hadr, al-Nasiriyah, al-Shinafiyah, al- Hamzah, and al-Samawah areas. It then flew back in the direction of Saudi Arabia.

20-21 Jul Overflights Alleged

JN2507070793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jul (INA)—Iraq again protested to the Arab League yesterday the continued provision of facilities by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for U.S., British, and French aircraft to violate the Iraqi airspace, posing a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a message addressed to the Arab League secretary general, Iraq's permanent representative at the League said that on 20 and 21 July, these aircraft, taking off from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, continued to violate Iraqi airspace. They carried out 36 hostile air sorties.

Iraq's permanent representative asked that the message be distributed among the Arab League member states and enclosed with it a detailed list of these violations.

Saudis, Kuwaitis Said Hosting Allied Planes

JN2607094693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League that the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait continue to provide facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft violating Iraqi airspace.

In a letter yesterday to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent envoy, said that on 22 and 23 July, these aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, conducting 95 aggressive sorties.

The envoy enclosed a list detailing the violations, and asked that the letter be circulated to Arab League members in view of the serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

Baghdad Protests 'Flagrant' Iranian Incursions

JN2507124393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Iraq has strongly protested to the Iranian regime against the aggressive, flagrant, and unjustified acts carried out by the Iranian forces in northern Iraq between 22 June and 15 July this year. The memorandum, which the Foreign Ministry handed to the acting Iranian charge d'affaires after he was summoned to the Ministry today, said that the Iraqi Government reiterates its strong protest against these flagrant and unjustified aggressions and reaffirms its demands that the Iranian Government stops these acts, and holds it fully responsible for their consequences. The Iraqi Government affirms Iraq's full right to demand compensation for the damages that resulted from them and its legitimate and legal rights to take whatever measures it sees fit to protect the sanctity and sovereignty of its soil and the security of its people.

Iraq has also protested against the visit to the Kurdish autonomous region in the north of the country on 13 July by an official Iranian delegation composed of Iranian Foreign Ministry and intelligence officials who held meetings with the so-called Iraqi Kurdish leaderships on the situation in the region.

The memorandum, which the Foreign Ministry handed to the acting Iranian charge d'affaires today, said that while affirming Iraq's permanent desire to establish good neighborly relations with Iran and to emphasize noninterference in internal affairs between the two neighboring countries, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry would like to convey its strong protest to the Iranian Government over this visit, which is a flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs and an infringement on its national sovereignty, and which negates the principles of good neighborliness, and hopes that such visits will not be repeated in the future.

Kurds Threaten Military Retaliation

NC2407213393 Paris AFP in English 2040 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Report by Lissy Schmidt]

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, July 24 (AFP)—Iraqi Kurdish officials threatened Saturday to riposte militarily if Iran continues to target them.

"We have decided to answer any Iranian military action by the same means. If the shelling does not end, we shall organize ourselves to shell back," Muhammad Tawfiq, the Kurdish minister for humanitarian affairs told AFP.

On Thursday, the Iranian army attacked the village of Karnawah near Qal'at Ashwarat some 15 kilometers (nine miles) from the Iraqi-Iranian border, destroying that community's school, according to concurring sources in the region.

They said the Kurdish fighters seized four Iranian soldiers and in retaliation the Iranian army captured several Kurdish "customs officers" while withdrawing.

Iran has threatened to attack al-Sulaymaniyah, one of Iraqi Kurdistan's main cities, if the Iranian prisoners are not freed, Tawfiq said.

Iraqi Kurdish opposition groups, which formed a government not recognized by the international community, have been in control of northern Iraq since the end of the Gulf war in 1991.

Iranian missiles on Thursday also targeted the headquarters of the Iranian Kurdish communist party Komaleh, which is opposed to the Iranian government some 10 kilometers (six miles) south of al- Sulaymaniyah, KOMALA [as received] sources said Saturday.

Iraqi Kurdish authorities confirmed that missiles were launched from Iran in the attack.

Tawfiq, noting that the Komaleh headquarters were far from the border, said that Tehran wanted "to demonstrate through this operation that it can attack al-Sulaymaniyah from Iranian territory."

Komaleh and the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI), the other main opposition group said last week they had withdrawn their forces from the Iraqi-Iranian border and redeployed them further south in Iraq.

The KDPI's headquarters lies about 40 kilometers (25 miles) from Irbil and 150 kilometers (93 miles) from the border with Iran.

Tawfiq said talks with an official Iranian delegation last week in Iraqi Kurdistan "were interrupted when Iran asked us to maintain complete control of Iranian groups in our region. This is not even a matter of discussion for us."

Iranian shelling of the areas bordering Iran intensified after the Iranian delegation left, correspondents in the region said.

On Saturday, shells fell on the Raniyah region, according to international aid organizations, and the attacks could be heard overnight Friday in the northernmost regions of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Iranian artillery has repeatedly shelled Kurdish-controlled border regions in Iraq since April. Warplanes also bombed opposition People's Mojahedin positions northeast of Baghdad in April last year and May 1993.

An Iranian group called Thursday for international action to stop Iraq's attacks against its Kurdish population.

The National Council of Resistance of Iran said several Iraqi fighter-bombers violated the U.N.-imposed "no-fly zone" in northern Iraq early Thursday, bombing the Komaleh headquarters and villages in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Peshmergas Repulse Attack

NC2307181993 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] Units of the Iranian forces have crossed the regional borders of Kurdistan in (Plagya) and (Turasyun). Other units infiltrated into (Kamarya) on Wednesday and destroyed the school there. The Iranian troops warned the inhabitants that they would blow up the police post.

In retaliation for the repeated Iranian attacks and in defense of the pure soil of Kurdistan, a force of the hero peshmerga fighters from the 1st Battalion of the 1st and 21st Brigades repulsed the aggression. A member of the Iranian force was killed and four others were captured.

The Kurdish forces are currently tightening the noose around the aggressors.

Meanwhile, Iranian warplanes bombarded the positions of the Kurdistan Toilers Party inside Kurdistan. The party's sources said that the Iranian forces intensified their air attacks against two bases southeast of al-Sulaymaniyah yesterday.

Brother Costras Rasul, chairman of the Kurdistan council of ministers, chaired a meeting of the council at 1300 today. The participants discussed the current situation in Kurdistan and the Iranian attacks. The meeting lasted for two hours.

Civilians Forced To Flee Homes in Marshlands

Area Under 'Heavy' Fire

JN2507090093 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] The cowardly Saddam regime is continuing its vile attacks against the people in the marshlands, southern Iraq. Our informed sources say that large numbers of civilians have recently been forced to abandon their homes and possessions under Saddam's heavy, long-range artillery, which continues to shell the marshland villages and areas within sight of the international committees and their special [word indistinct], and within sight of the Western alliance forces which are deployed in Iraq under the pretext of protecting the people from the tyrant's oppression.

Our sources say that more than 560 families fleeing the Iraqi marshlands arrived in the Himmat [name as heard] area near the border with the neighbor Iran. Our sources say these families number 3,182 citizens, most of whom are women, old men, and children. Our sources also say that among these are 1,280 children.

The sources note that the families which are being displaced by the tyrant's regime, the enemy of the people, are mostly women and old men because the tyrant's regime had arrested and executed most of the men within the 18-60 years age group.

SAIRI Appeals To Aid Agencies

NC2407164193 Paris AFP in English 1604 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Text] Nicosia, July 24 (AFP)—Iraqi Shiites have been pouring into Iran to escape attacks by the Iraqi army, the main opposition Shiite Iraqi movement charged Saturday.

In a statement received in Nicosia, the Iran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) called on aid agencies to act swiftly to provide the refugees with food and medicine.

It said that the residents of southern Iraq, mostly Shiite Muslims, were facing a humanitarian catastrophe.

SAIRI also said that its fighters had killed or wounded eight Iraqi soldiers last week during an attack on installations used by the Iraqi army to drain the marshes of Iraq's al-'Amarah region.

Since Iraqi forces crushed a Shiite uprising inspired by Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war, pockets of resistance remain in the marshes and the Baghdad government has been trying to stamp them out.

On Tuesday, SAIRI said that 3,182 Iraqis, including more than 1,000 children, had sought refuge in Iran to escape Iraqi army attacks.

Over 6,000 Flee 'Liquidation'

LD2307200393 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1841 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] Damascus, 23 Jul (KUNA)—The Iraqi opposition parties and organizations have appealed to the Arab leaders, the Arab League, and the United Nations to intervene and take immediate measures to put an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people, and to the serious violations of human rights being committed by the regime in Baghdad.

This came after a meeting held here yesterday by 18 Iraqi opposition parties and organizations present in Damascus. They sent a memorandum to the Arab leaders, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat Abd Al-Majid, and UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, explaining the tragedy faced by the Iraqi people, especially in the south, and the collective liquidation and collective displacement to which they are being subjected.

The memorandum urges the Arab leaders and the two international organizations to put an end to the inhumane practices being committed by the Iraqi regime's forces against the Iraqi people, which constitute a threat to the security and stability of the region.

Bayan Jabr, representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], told KUNA that the meeting, representing the Pan-Arab, Islamic, and Kurdish currents, studied conditions inside Iraq and the call for a speedy move to topple the regime and save the people from its suffering. The meeting stressed the need to speed up and end the drafting of formulae being discussed by a preparatory committee consisting of 6 persons representing the three currents in the Iraqi opposition for the unification of the opposition, in preparation for the holding of an enlarged meeting of the leaders of the opposition, and to discuss means of widening military operations and intensifying political activities in order to topple the regime.

On this matter Jabr told KUNA that the committee, especially the Pan-Arab and the Islamic currents, is waiting for the return of the delegation of the Kurdish current from Iraqi Kurdistan, and the replies it will carry from the Kurdish leaders on the draft formulae for uniting the opposition, future political and military moves to bring down Saddam's regime, and the place and time of holding the leaders' conference.

Jabr said that the meeting discussed the grave conditions in the marshes of the south, the collective liquidation to which the population of the area is being subjected, the burning of villages as a result of artillery shelling by the regime forces, and the draining and poisoning of the marsh waters. He said those who escape the artillery shelling walk into minefields planted by the regime in the way of those who flee their villages on their way to the Iraq-Iran border. He said the number of those who have fled their homes has passed 6,000, and that this figure is growing as a result of the military and economic siege imposed on the marshes, in addition to the emergence of diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, and typhoid among the refugees.

Humanitarian Situation 'Worrying'

NC2307200693 Paris AFP in English 1935 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] Geneva, July 23 (AFP)—An Iraqi offensive in the south of the country has caused an exodus of refugees into neighbouring Iran, with as many as 150 people crossing the border each day, U.N. aid agencies reported Friday.

Reliable sources on the border said that 15,000 people were currently waiting to cross into Iran, although a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Marie Okabe admitted that information reaching Geneva was still "sketchy".

More than 3,000 Iraqis had fled to Iran since early July when the authorities in Baghdad launched a military offensive in the marsh area of southern Iraq, mostly inhabited by Shiites, Okabe said.

The humanitarian and economic situation in Iraq generally, particularly as it affected Kurds in the north and Shia Muslims in the south, was increasingly worrying, according to the aid agencies.

On Wednesday the U.N. Security Council decided to continue a three-year embargo against Iraq. However Thomas Ekvall, a spokesman for the U.N.'s Emergency

Fund for Children (UNICEF) here, said: "I hope conditions will be such that sanctions could be lifted."

UNICEF renewed a call for 86 million dollars to provide fuel for Kurdistan in northern Iraq.

UNICEF has received only 6.5 million dollars, or a mere 7.6 percent of the sum appealed for in April, UNICEF spokesman Thomas Ekvall said.

He stressed that if a human tragedy was to be avoided, deliveries of heating fuel in the Kurdistan mountains were urgent.

Some 750,000 households in Kurdistan do not have enough fuel for heating or cooking next winter. Deforestation in the region meant there were scanty supplies of wood.

UNICEF highlighted the plight of children generally in Iraq. The infant mortality rate is now 92 deaths per 1,000.

Moreover, many people live below the World Bank's poverty line of 200 dollars, basic foodstuffs suffer from hyperinflation, just 47 percent of the population has running water and only 24 percent have proper sanitation.

IDF Spokesman Announces Air Raid on Lebanon

TA2507082393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reports that for the past 30 minutes, the Israel Air Force has been attacking terrorist targets in south Lebanon and the Lebanese al-Biqa'. The targets attacked so far include Hizballah headquarters, bases, and sites. The IDF spokesman adds that the air strike today comes in response to the attacks by Hizballah and Palestinian organizations on SLA [South Lebanese Army] and IDF posts, and katyusha attacks on the Galilee settlements.

The IDF spokesman adds that any attempt to fire katyushas at the Galilee settlements will meet a harsh IDF retaliation. It was further reported that the sites chosen for the attack are Hizballah targets located outside the Lebanese settlements or in isolated buildings on the outskirts of constructed zones to minimize harm to civilians.

Our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Yo'av Aviv report that the IDF spokesman added that Hizballah will be held responsible for any harm caused to civilians because it purposely placed its bases near villages and town.

The cable television stations in northern Israel are currently relaying orders to the residents to go to the shelters.

Statement by Chief of Staff Baraq on IAF Attack

TA2507084193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0815 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Statement by Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of IDF General Staff, outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] For some 45 minutes now, Israel Air Force [IAF] fighter planes have been attacking Hizballah and terror organizations' targets in the Lebanese al-Biqa', southern al-Biqa', and outside the security zone in south Lebanon. The attacks come in response to an escalation in the Hizballah activity recently, which has been expressed in the firing of katyushas at the Galilee settlements and attacks on SLA [South Lebanese Army] posts and IDF active forces.

We will not accept the Hizballah attempt to turn the residents of our northern settlements into hostages, in a bid to provide immunity to Hizballah activity and to prevent an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] response to this activity. Any attempt to fire katyushas at the Galilee settlements will elicit an immediate, harsh, and painful retaliation by the IDF. The north of the security zone in Lebanon will only be quiet if there is quiet in the Galilee.

We wish to encourage the residents of the north, of the settlements which have been tested more than once in the past, and I am certain it will endure the current test, which—at a certain stage—may not be easy. We will not avoid using any means at our disposal to restore calm in the north.

Thank you.

Two Killed by Latest Katyusha Barrage on Galilee

TA2507181193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Two people were killed and five wounded in the latest barrage of katyushas directed at the Galilee. Our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Yo'av Aviv report that the wounded are currently being treated on the spot, and will later be transferred to a hospital in Zefat.

In the katyusha barrage, which landed approximately two and a half hours ago, two residents of Dishon were slightly wounded.

Two Killed in Katyusha Attack on Qiryat Shemona

TA2507211393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Two people were killed and eight wounded in the katyusha attack on Qiryat Shemona this evening. Dozens of apartments were damaged, and fire broke out in several of them.

[Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 2030 GMT on 25 July adds: "Dozens of katyusha rockets landed in western Galilee a short time ago. There are no casualties and no damage was caused."]

AFP Reports 10 Wounded

NC2507195893 Paris AFP in English 1910 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Qiryat Shemona, Israel, July 25 (AFP)—Rockets rained down on the centre of this northern Israeli border town Sunday [25 July] night killing two civilians and wounding 10 more, an AFP correspondent reported.

Two people had been slightly hurt in daylight salvos of Katyusha rockets, but after dark a large number of rockets crashed into Qiryat Shemona, home to 15,000 people.

The rockets started fires and damaged buildings, correspondents said, after Israeli raids by warplanes and helicopter gunships killed 11 people, including four Syrian soldiers, and wounded about 50 across Lebanon.

People living along the border region had been ordered into bomb shelters as a precaution when Israeli air raids began across Lebanon in the morning, but many were outside when the rockets hit.

Before nightfall, some 50 rockets had already slammed into Israel in several salvos, Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq told a press conference in Tel Aviv.

"We expect many rockets tonight and the following night," Baraq told reporters as the news of dead and wounded came in from the north.

He said Israel had attacked 10 targets in Lebanon and then another six after rockets were fired at Israel. [passage omitted]

But in Qiryat Shemona, ambulances with sirens wailing crisscrossed the streets picking up wounded to ferry them to hospital.

"We have never been bombarded like this," said Yona Levine pointing to burnt-out cars and broken walls. "It's a catastrophe. There's a lot of damage."

Electricity supplies were out.

Firemen fought to douse fires as rescue workers evacuated families amid screaming and shouting.

The rockets came despite Israeli warnings that any attacks would lead to further reprisals.

Helicopter gunships followed up the fighter-bomber raids after the first salvos of rockets, some of which also hit the "security zone" Israel holds in southern Lebanon.

An Israeli military spokesman said: "Despite our warnings rockets have been fired so our operations will continue until calm returns."

Several hundred children were due to be evacuated from the border area on Monday for several days, the mayor of Qiryat Shemona, Prosper Azran [name as received], said.

He had also requested that the authorities move out several hundred more old people and the handicapped to ensure their safety.

Meanwhile an Israeli corporal, wounded by mortar fire in southern Lebanon a week ago, became on Sunday the seventh Jewish soldier to die from guerrilla attacks in Lebanon this month, a military spokesman said.

A total of 14 Israelis have now died in Lebanon this year compared with 13 for the whole of 1993.

Israeli television showed President 'Ezer Weizman touring the damaged areas at Qiryat Shemona.

Katyushas Reported Fired at Security Zone 26 Jul

TA2607094393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Several katyushas landed in the security zone north of the Israeli border over the last hour. Our correspondent in the northern Israel Menahem Horowitz reports that no casualties or damage were inflicted. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0830 GMT on 26 July adds that "katyushas were fired at the western Galilee before noon and, as far as is known, no casualties or damage were caused."]

Air Force Fears Use of Stinger Missiles in Lebanon

NC2607141293 Paris AFP in English 1339 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Jerusalem, July 26 (AFP)—The Israeli Air Force fears that Hizballah guerrillas in Lebanon will down a warplane or helicopter with U.S.-made Stinger missiles sooner or later, a newspaper reported Monday [26 July].

"Reports from Lebanon indicate that the Hizballah possesses a few Stingers," Armed Forces Spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Raanan Gissin told AFP.

"The missiles fired against our aircraft on Sunday were Strila surface-to-air missiles, which are less effective than the Stinger," Gissin said.

Israel has suffered no reported losses from two days of intensive air raids against pro-Iranian Hizballah and radical Palestinian targets across Lebanon.

The Stinger came into service in 1981 and as many as 1,000 were supplied in 1986 to Afghan mojahedin rebels fighting Soviet-backed forces. They brought down several Soviet and Afghan government aircraft with the shoulder-operated missiles, the HA'ARETZ newspaper recalled.

Stingers were passed on to Iran and Iranian revolutionary guards who probably smuggled them into Lebanon, Gissin said.

A favourite with guerrilla movements, the Stinger weighs only 13.5 kilos (30 pounds) and has an effective range of 3.5 kilometres (about two miles) but can score hits at distances of more than four kilometres.

Hizballah fighters reportedly have only early Stinger models, which pick up on heat emissions from aircraft engines and have an enemy aircraft detection system.

The Americans are developing a sophisticated air-to-air Stinger to equip attack helicopters, HA'ARETZ said. Israeli firms are involved in producing launch equipment and a simulator.

Rockets Fired at Galilee; No Casualties Reported

TA2607154193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Three katyusha salvos hit the Galilee Panhandle over the past two hours. In the first, one woman was slightly injured. No damage or casualties were caused by the other two. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] artillery returned fire at the sources of the katyushas. It seems that the last round of katyushas came from the area of Bra'shit. Air Force raids on terrorist targets continued this afternoon as well.

[At 1515 GMT, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew carries a live report from the north by Yo'av Aviv, adding that "two consecutive rounds of katyusha rockets have just hit the Galilee Panhandle. They fell at two different sites. At present we have no reports on any damage caused or casualties."]

Army Commanders Comment on Operation in Lebanon

TA2507183393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1732 GMT 25 Jul 93

[News conference by Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of the General Staff; Major General Uri Sagi, the head of the Intelligence Branch; and Major General Herzl Budinger, the commander of the Israel Air Force, at Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv. Officers' remarks followed by question and answer session with correspondents in Hebrew and English—live]

[Excerpts] [Baraq] Good evening, gentlemen of the press. [preceding six words in English] Good evening to everybody. In reaction to a systematic exacerbation recently in activity by Hizballah and other terrorist organizations along Israel's northern border, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] this morning launched a military operation. Beginning at 1030 [0730 GMT] this morning, the Israel Air Force [IAF] attacked 10 targets belonging to the Hizballah and the Jibril organization in Lebanon. Immediately after this attack we explained that if katyushas were fired at the Galilee we would be forced to continue using force. This warning—which came after we chose our targets in such a way as to limit as much as possible any danger to the civilian population—enabled the Hizballah, had it so wanted, to prevent the situation from deteriorating. We saw, and some will say that this was only to be expected, that katyusha rockets began landing in the Galilee from the early afternoon, and we subsequently continued and expanded our activity. Another six targets were attacked by the IAF and we singled out another 40 homes, mainly those of key Hizballah operatives throughout the strip of villages along the northern part of the security zone. Up until now, approximately 50 katyushas have been fired, half of which landed in the Galilee and half in the security zone. Two Israeli citizens were lightly wounded in Dishon. I have just returned from a meeting in Qiryat Shemona, which was attended by the prime minister, myself, the commander of the Northern Command, and the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, with the civilian leadership of the northern settlements. Various issues were raised there, some of them demands, but generally speaking we left the meeting with buoyed spirits. We found a civilian leadership and a local population which understands the situation and the need to take action, even if the civilian population has to face some hardship for a short period, so that in the long run we will be able to restore security to the north as well as tenable rules and an acceptable modus operandi to the security zone. Earlier, I toured our artillery units and met with the crews of the assault helicopters carrying out some of our missions, and found all our units showing a high degree of capability and readiness, prepared for every mission, and aware of the need to employ all means at our command to stop the firing of the katyusha rockets, even if this takes several days, and to reduce the incidence of these launchings and to change the nature and modus operandi in which the terrorist organizations use katyusha rockets against the security zone and the Galilee. I would now like to give the floor to the head of the IDF Intelligence Branch.

[Sagi] Good evening. The Hizballah organization as an instigator of terrorist attacks against the security zone in particular and the State of Israel in general is not a new phenomenon. However, it is worthwhile noting three significant changes that characterize Hizballah's activity since the beginning of 1993. This organization, as a catalyst and trailblazer for another movement, has focused on the ability to launch projectiles, mainly katyusha rockets but also other weapons, in order to avoid as much as possible direct contact with the security forces in the security zone. Moreover, and this is the second development, this organization has found it appropriate to fire katyushas at sovereign Israeli territory, and not just at the security zone, whenever the IDF's freedom of action clashes with its interests; and thus, to some extent, holding Israel's northern settlements hostage in the face of IDF or SLA [South Lebanese Army] activity within the security zone. The third phenomenon that distinguishes Hizballah activity in recent months is its ability to harness Palestinian organizations to carry out activity similar to what I described earlier alongside, in parallel, or in support of Hizballah. It is no secret, and let me give you one figure: Since the beginning of the year, not including the events of the past few days, katyushas were fired at Israeli territory 10 times, seven times by the Hizballah, twice by Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah organization, and last time by George Habash's group. It is unnecessary to tell you that Hizballah not only opposes the political process, which may be an accompanying and inseparable part of the processes in our region. Hizballah also ideologically opposes the very existence of the State of Israel. However, the most prominent thing is its ability by firing katyushas to make us carefully consider our actions in any military activity we consider taking against terrorist groups in general and not just Hizballah. Therefore, the residents of the north, and the repercussions of Hizballah activity may have led us to the conclusion that some other kind of balance was necessary in order to ultimately grant us freedom of action. I would like to say that aside from other organizations, the major power factors that permit Hizballah to operate freely, are first and foremost the Lebanese Government, which despite its rigorous disarming of all the terrorist organizations over a year ago, publicly refrained from doing the same with regard to Hizballah, which it described as a legitimate resistance movement against the IDF presence in south Lebanon. But the Lebanese Government today cannot supply adequate support, and it goes without saying that the Syrians, by virtue of their policy, presence, and activity in Lebanon support and

permit Hizballah activity against the State of Israel. The Syrians may not necessarily see eye to eye with them with regard to the firing of katyushas; however, they definitely permit the parameters of the activity that I just described.

Last but not least, the Iranians. Not only do they supply ideological and political backing, they also supply weapons, ammunition, and ideological and other support to Hizballah as the paramount movement in its opposition to Israel and its activity in Lebanon. As for today, the 16 targets selected and attacked were mostly bases, offices, or living quarters of Hizballah operatives. Two of the installations were part of the Hizballah infrastructure, one of them the central training camp in al-Biqa', and the second the organization's radio station. All the other targets, except for the Palestinian groups, were used by Hizballah operatives in al-Biqa' and south Lebanon. The main Palestinian target was Jibril's organization, a target in al-Na'imah, not far from al-Damur, which served as a bunker and headquarters for the Jibril organization, which as will be recalled takes an active part, as it did 10 days ago in the Jabal Safi area, in attacks against our forces in Lebanon. As for the reactions, and here I will conclude, these reactions were not totally unexpected by us. There were attempts at sporadic antiaircraft fire, there was also one attempt to fire an SA-7 missile against our helicopters. There were no casualties among our forces. In summary, it can be said that even if it was understood that the IDF could launch an operation during the next few days, I believe that most of our targets were surprised in the tactical sense, which enabled us to inflict a relatively large number of casualties. It is still early to count the number of casualties; however, I estimate that as of now, Hizballah and the other organizations have sustained between seven to 10 fatalities, and 10 to 12 injured. I stress, however, that these are not exact numbers and we will be able to be more precise in a few hours.

[Budinger] Following the background briefing prepared by the Intelligence Branch, the IAF formulated attack plans in northern Lebanon, and in an area north of south Lebanon's security zone. All these areas are full of terrorists. These plans were presented to the chief of staff for his approval, and were later brought before the cabinet. After examining all the conditions, and this morning we again checked whether any changes should be made in the attack plans, I told the chief of staff that we were ready to carry out the operation, and I received his final approval and told the squadrons to go ahead with the attack. All the targets were selected in light of the long waiting period the terrorists had in order to prepare themselves for such an attack, which came as no surprise. It was pretty clear that most of the locations would be empty of terrorists. That is why we chose rather key infrastructure targets of this organization, which while providing us with the possibility to generate a lot of undeniable destruction, were also far enough removed from civilian population centers. In general, the targets were divided into three larger areas. [sentence as heard] The northern al-Biqa' region, Ba'labakk and Janta, which are relatively close to the Syrian border and are used exclusively as staging posts and activity by the terrorists. Also, the area south of al-Qir'awn lake, near 'Ayn al-Tinah, which is close to the security zone and used as a training and living area by the terrorists, the region of south Lebanon which includes civilian areas, which makes separating targets more difficult, as I mentioned earlier, and the area of al-Na'imah—familiar to us from the past—which served as the headquarters and bunker for the Jibril organization. All the targets were hit between 1030 and 1130 [0730-0830 GMT]. The larger infrastructure targets were hit in the first wave. The hits were extremely accurate and all the targets were severely damaged. [passage omitted]

[Qol Yisra'el's Sheli Yehimovich] Does the IDF's operation have clear temporal and geographic parameters, and does it have clear objectives—or is everything possible now, depending on Hizballah's reaction?

[Baraq] Our operation is clearly aimed at ending the present firing of katyusha rockets, and at creating a situation wherein all the elements who can influence Hizballah—as well as this organization itself—reach the conclusion that they must stop firing katyushas and revert to the rules of operation wherein the trigger happy mentality of katyusha attacks which we have recently witnessed will stop. Our operation will continue with whatever measures necessary for as long as necessary in order to obtain our objective. This is a difficult task that will obviously demand a price of us—and this price can be painful. As a society, however, we must be able to pay this short-term price in order to ensure that over the longer term we maintain both our freedom of operation in the security zone, as well as calm in the Galilee.

[IDF Radio's Mikha Friedman] Mr. Chief of Staff: At 2020 [1720 GMT], just when this news conference started, a barrage of katyushas landed in the Galilee. According to the report we have just received, there are many casualties, and heavy damage was caused. Does this event constitute a new stage in the military confrontation in the north, which will require the IDF to implement new steps it has not taken so far?

[Baraq] We believe that many more katyushas will be fired tonight, and perhaps over the next few days. The terrorist organizations have hundreds of katyushas, and they might fire some of them over the next few days. In the past we have already faced situations in which we withstood katyusha attacks for many days. I have no doubt that we will undergo a serious test, but I am convinced that together with the residents of the northern settlements we will emerge victorious from this test.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Baraq] I do not want to enter assessments regarding the reaction of other elements. The details regarding the manner or the place in which the Syrian soldiers were hit still requires clarification. I believe that this will happen

after we receive more intelligence information. Until then I do not want to react to this. Altogether we are firing only at patent terrorist targets or at sources of firing.

[Unidentified correspondent] The Hizballah laughed at your warning this morning and fired katyushas this afternoon. They are also calling the IDF cowards. Can the katyushas be stopped without a ground attack?

[Baraq] At this early stage, I would not like to assess how things will turn out. We will take all the necessary steps to attain our objective. We will wait and see how this test will end.

[HA'ARETZ correspondent Gay Bekhor] What was the strategic aim of today's attack? Was it only to deliver a direct message to Hizballah, or was it also meant to force Syria out of its neutrality and into pressuring Hizballah? Was it perhaps meant to destroy the myth that Hizballah is the bastion of the Lebanese population? Are there any objectives beyond the immediate message to Hizballah?

[Baraq] We believe that the combination of the strikes on Hizballah and the cumulative effect of the IDF operation on the population and regime in Beirut, as well as on Damascus and other sources of power in Lebanon—will put an end to the katyusha volleys which we have witnessed over the last few hours, and will also decrease Hizballah's ability to fire katyushas at the Galilee as they have done recently.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Baraq] We believe that if Syria wanted to it could have prevented Hizballah's present method of operation. Hizballah men train in areas controlled by the Syrian Army in Lebanon. Syria also enables the passage of equipment and weapons through Syrian territory to Hizballah.

['AL HAMISHMAR's Yisra'el Zamir] Mr. Chief of Staff: It is well known that Hizballah deploys within densely populated Lebanese villages. How sensitive are you to the possibility of wounding women, children, and infants?

[Baraq] We are trying to minimize civilian casualties. The Air Force commander has already noted that today's attacks were aimed at targets outside villages or on their outskirts. In some cases use was made of precision-guided weapons to prevent such injuries. At the same time, however, we believe that those elements who deploy their forces and fire at us from within civilian settlements are responsible for the civilian casualties. The civilian population should rid itself of Hizballah. If it sincerely wants to do so, Hizballah will find it very difficult to operate.

[Unidentified correspondent] Are there any signs of movement by Syrian units in the al-Biqa'?

[Baraq] I do not know. I would like to say to all the people who are concerned that things will get out of control: We do not have any intentions of letting this happen. We intend to use all the means at our disposal to attain our aim. We believe that countries do not start a war without wanting to and without jointly initiating it.

[Sagi] To the best of my knowledge the Syrians are behaving normally in the al-Biqa' or in the areas near the targets noted earlier. Referring to the overall Syrian policy, I do not believe this is the time or place to go into detail. I do think, however, that parallel to Hizballah activity and Syrian support for Hizballah, there is also a Syrian interest to pursue the political process. At the same time, they believe, however, that Hizballah operations against Israeli activity in south Lebanon is legitimate. They also believe that the political process serves their interests. It is impossible to say what will happen over the long-term. For the Syrians, however, there is no contradiction here. At the same time the Syrians are very familiar with our sensitivity to attacks on our northern settlements.

Baraq: Hizballah Responsible for Action

TA2607151793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1440 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff; Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin; General Staff generals; and the Defense Ministry's director general this afternoon toured the north. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal met them.

[Begin recording] [Tal] Gen. Baraq is touring the north with the prime minister today. He said that our rivals are the Hizballah terrorists, and force is the language of our negotiations with it.

[Baraq] So far, some 100 katyushas have been fired at the Galilee. We have two fatalities and several dozen casualties. The population in the north, currently still in shelters, is showing exemplary patience and endurance. The endurance is very important because this is a war of both power and will. He whose will is stronger and who can deliver a stronger blow will win this war. We believe it is us. We continue hitting at Hizballah targets and bases. To our regret, Hizballah is responsible for the suffering caused to the civilian population, which is being driven out of its homes, because it continues firing at us from inside and from the outskirts of Lebanese villages. We expect that at a certain stage the Lebanese Government, which claims to have control and be a sovereign government, will get a grip on itself and impose its will on the Hizballah. If it does not, we will have to take action. Naturally, the Lebanese Government and Hizballah will be held responsible for the consequences.

[Tal] Could you give us an update on the current situation?

[Baraq] I said that 100 katyushas have been fired in our direction, half of which fell outside our territory. Our forces are ready; our artillery is firing; our fighter planes

and gunships are raiding; and tanks are firing on occasion. The fighting continues.

[Tal] The Lebanese villagers keep running away from their villages. Is their fear that we might go across the security zone with infantry forces justified?

[Baraq] They are running, and I believe more are yet to flee the villages. Standing here today, I would not rule out any possible activity on our part.

[Tal] Who is our negotiating partner? Who receives our warnings?

[Baraq] We are not negotiating with anybody. We are using force against Hizballah. Our target audiences are Hizballah, the Lebanese residents, the terrorists' political protectors such as the Amal Party in Beirut, and naturally the Lebanese Administration with the Syrian Administration in the background.

[Tal] Could it be that, in theory, we do not yet see an end to the operation?

[Baraq] Everything must end, and this will also end. I believe that if we are determined, stubborn, and patient we will eventually win. [end recording]

IDF Deputy Operations Branch Head on Lebanon

TA2607145093 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Interview with Major General Major Me'ir Dagan, deputy head of the General Staff Operations Branch, by Yisra'el Segal—live]

[Text] [Segal] How long do you believe the fighting in Lebanon will last, if we can talk at all in terms of timeframes?

[Dagan] At this stage, we cannot discuss the timeframe of the operation. It is planned in stages and with reference to developing situations. In the Army, we must be able to come up with answers to evolving situations. I believe it is too soon, at the current point in time, to set the end goal for the operation.

[Segal] We have the impression that we are unable to hit the katyusha launchers.

[Dagan] The operation was designed to harm Hizballah and its infrastructure, and the Palestinian organizations which assist it and operate against us from Lebanon. It should be understood that a katyusha is easy to conceal and launch, and hard to detect. We believe that an ongoing operation to damage the Hizballah infrastructure will have a deterrent effect on the organization's willingness to fire katyushas at Israeli settlements.

[Segal] You talk of stages. If I understand correctly, the stages of the operation were planned before it was launched. At this point in time, is the plan being followed to the Army's satisfaction?

[Dagan] The operation is being conducted both according to the planned stages and the developing situation. Up to this moment, I can say that the situation has evolved as we expected.

[Segal] But katyushas keep being fired, as we have just heard. Do you have ad hoc answers for specific fast-breaking developments? For example, yesterday's horrible katyusha attack on Qiryat Shemona.

[Dagan] We expected that katyushas would be fired during the operation. I assume that if we want to prevent the firing of katyushas, we need to be active for a long time and determined to destroy the Hizballah infrastructure in the south. It should be remembered that Hizballah bases are located among the local population. We, therefore, exercise extra caution when we attack Hizballah men who hide among civilians. As I noted before, katyusha launchers can be easily fired from almost any location. We cannot guarantee that another katyusha will not be fired at us tomorrow or the day after. At the same time, I believe that if we constantly act with determination against this organization, we will make it pay such a heavy price that will reduce its readiness to launch katyushas.

[Segal] A commando unit yesterday raided a Hizballah base. Was the operation successful?

[Dagan] It was not a Hizballah base, it belonged to Palestinian organization that works with and helps Hizballah. The operation was successful.

[Segal] What was its aim?

[Dagan] The aim was to show that the war against the terrorists is not limited to a single strip—the south—but will be carried out in any location where we believe terror organizations should be hit. The operation in Tripoli, the air raids on al-Biqa', the attacks on targets south of Beirut are all proof of this policy.

Deputy Defense Minister on Situation in Lebanon

TA2507152393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur by Ya'el Dan and Gay Zohar on a special IDF newsreel devoted to the military action in Lebanon—live]

[Text] [Dan] Are we only at the initial stages of the operation? What is your impression?

[Gur] Yes, I think that we are at the start of this confrontation, the goal of which is to guarantee quiet for our northern settlements. I am aware of all the concern. Already in the cabinet session, and later in the media, I heard people express their fear that we might, God forbid, lose control of the situation and that things might deteriorate into war. This is all irresponsible talk. We are fully cognizant of the dimensions, goals, and other parameters of this operation. The prime minister is

firmly in charge of this operation, so we will make every effort to achieve our military goals, but if anyone is worried about an all-out war, or a repeat of the Lebanon war, then this is sheer nonsense.

[Zohar] Do you regard the explosions we have been hearing along the northern border over the past few hours as an answer to the government's message from this morning?

[Gur] Look, I think that Hizballah wants to clearly state its position. Incidentally, this proves just how seriously we studied the situation before we decided to launch this operation. In other words, some time ago Hizballah decided on a clear policy which it is now implementing, and our operation is designed to try and permit Israeli citizens to live quietly.

[Zohar] Yes, but is it not their policy to try and drag us into as large a confrontation as possible?

[Gur] Even if this is their goal, and I do not think that this is the case, it will be to no avail. We have made a clear decision, we know exactly under what parameters we are operating and exactly which goals we wish to accomplish. Any talk about a larger war in this connection is sheer drivel uttered by people who do not know who pulls the strings in the Israeli Government today. This is not the same government as in 1982, so these fears deserve to be shelved. Any real fears should pertain to the actual operation itself, to make sure that our forces come out of it safely, and that peace and quiet is finally restored to the Galilee.

[Dan] Meanwhile, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has limited itself to air attacks, and we heard the chief of staff's warning this morning. The question is: When will it be the appropriate time in your opinion to widen the offensive beyond air attacks?

[Gur] Obviously, you do not expect me to tell you over the telephone what the IDF plans to do either in five minutes or in a day or two. All I can tell you—and I feel that this is enough—is that all possible developments were taken into consideration and discussed in detail, and the prime minister is working on the basis of these prior evaluations.

[Zohar] Yes, just let me add something to the last question. Clearly, we do not expect to hear any details; however, residents of the northern settlements have been huddled in their air raid shelters since this morning, and they must be asking themselves whether they will be able to leave the shelters in the next few hours.

[Gur] Since I was twice commander of the Northern Command, I am very familiar with the local population. We all should salute their resilience. They know that our actions are motivated by our desire to permit them to live in peace. Therefore, they do not inquire about details. That is not the way to run things. After a great deal of thought and hesitation, the government reached a decision which calls for great responsibility. I believe that this government deserves full praise for hesitating before sending its soldiers to face enemy fire. However, the decision has been made, and we will make every effort possible to achieve our goal, which is to restore calm and quiet to the Galilee.

[Dan] Mordekhay Gur, I want to ask you a real layman's question. Is there any way for us to know where the katyushas are being launched from, or are we constantly surprised anew?

[Gur] There is absolutely no difficulty in knowing where the katyushas are fired from.

[Dan] So can we not launch a pinpointed operation against that location?

[Gur] That is where the whole problem starts. The Hizballah fires the rockets from inside the villages and therefore, to our regret, any retaliation by us against the sources of firing hits either the outskirts or the inside of a village, because that is where Hizballah operates. That also imposes constraints on the IDF throughout the entire operation. With today's technology, there is no problem pinpointing—even several kilometers away—from where someone has fired on you. We have progressed way beyond that point. The Hizballah ideology, which is backed by Iran and receives practical support from Syria, has set itself a goal to seriously provoke Israel. Iran and Syria encourage Hizballah in this goal out of their own respective reasons. We, for our own reasons, will prevent any harm from coming to the peace process because we have wide experience on all the fronts and we know that only peace can provide a comprehensive solution. However, we will do everything necessary—and only what is necessary—in the framework of this operation, and I hope it will fulfill its goals.

[Zohar] Have there been any reports confirming what we heard about Syrian fatalities?

[Gur] I do not wish to get into these details at this stage. I imagine that things will become clear as the operation unfolds, especially since I hope that the operation will be as short as possible.

[Zohar] Yes, but is this operation also meant to convey a message to the Syrians?

[Gur] Definitely. From the very beginning we knew and stated that the Syrians were among those most capable of influencing Hizballah in Lebanon. Nevertheless, we have no intention of entering into a confrontation with the Syrians. We are not shooting at them, not trying to attack them, and not trying to open a Syrian front. As far as we are concerned, the Syrians are not a party in this operation. They are a party in only one sense. They can influence Hizballah to stop firing at our settlements.

[Dan] Could the fact that several Syrian soldiers were killed draw Syria into direct involvement?

[Gur] I very much hope not, because the Syrians know very well that we have no intention of initiating a

confrontation with them, and if anything happened, or happens in future, then it was not planned or sought by Israel. Therefore, in this respect, I do not think that we should be concerned about a Syrian front. I think we should only be concerned with one thing: Whether this operation will enable us to achieve peace and quiet for the Galilee. We will exert every effort to ensure that.

[Zohar] Up until now has there been any kind of international pressure, especially from the United States, to curtail our activity?

[Gur] So far there has been no international activity. I followed the news from various world capitals over the radio, and their weekend rest must be respected. Some of them are also in the middle of their summer recess. That is why there has not been any international activity yet. But have no fear, it will start soon. Since our goal is so clear and well known we are not particularly worried by international reaction.

[Zohar] Thank you, Deputy Defense Minister Gur.

Comments on Use of Ground Forces

TA2607093793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Mordekhay Gur says it is inconceivable that the cabinet should not use ground forces in Lebanon if that is necessary. According to him, the Army is preparing all possible options and the cabinet will choose the one that suits it best. The trauma of the Lebanon war must not affect decisions about how to operate, Gur noted. He added that Israel will not allow the peace process to come to any harm, but neither will it agree to make its citizens hostage to Hizballah.

Rabin on Lebanon, Possibility of Ground Attack

TA2507173393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1630 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Report on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's address and subsequent news conference during a visit to northern Israel "a short time ago" by Razi Barqay—recorded]

[Text] [Rabin] After a long period, Hizballah has breached its accepted mode of operation. What I mean is that, until now, Hizballah acted against the security zone, a thing which enabled us to operate in an efficient manner against mortar, Sagger [a wire-guided antitank missile], and other weapons fired from outside the security zone at the security zone. During this period we could also hit Hizballah bases north of the security zone. Now, however, Hizballah decided that every time we hit what they consider to be civilian targets—that is, the sources of their fire deployed on the outskirts and within villages north of the security zone—they will retaliate by striking Israeli settlements. We therefore reached the conclusion that we could not leave the situation as it is.

[Barqay] After this long opening, the prime minister described the Israeli Government decision, as well as the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] operation today:

[Rabin] We therefore decided, first of all, to strike Hizballah targets in the al-Biqa' located outside Lebanese villages. We gave Hizballah the opportunity to accept the rules we set and waited to see how it would react. Hizballah reacted by firing katyushas at northern settlements. We then passed to the second stage of hitting Hizballah targets inside villages by means of helicopter gunships and tanks. We are guided by one clear principle: Unless there is quiet and security in our northern settlements, there will be no quiet and security for the residents of south Lebanon living north of the security zone. We will decide how and when to accomplish this. Our objective, however, is very clear: The security of our northern settlements will not be held hostage by the clashes of the IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] forces in the security zone with those who attack them from north of the security zone.

[Barqay] Mr. Prime Minister, are there any signs of Syrian involvement or of a Syrian reaction since this morning?

[Rabin] Not that I know of.

[IDF Radio's Menahem Horowitz] Mr. Prime Minister, how long will the residents of the north have to remain in their shelters?

[Rabin] I am not dealing in prophecy. Our aim is to achieve real calm as soon as possible.

[Barqay] Mr. Prime Minister, are you considering the possibility of an infantry attack on the ground?

[Rabin] I am not going to detail the measures we will employ, so long as we attain our objective. Everything is open—the government will make the appropriate decision.

[Barqay] These, then, are the very firm comments made by the prime minister in a meeting with correspondents. I would recommend paying attention to Rabin's comments regarding the possibility of an infantry attack—Rabin made the point that everything is open.

Says Situation 'Will Not Last Long'

TA2607081493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin estimates that the current situation in the north will not last long, and that there is a chance for making progress in the political process. Mr. Rabin hopes the security situation will not have an adverse effect on incoming tourism. Our correspondent Arye Shaqed reports that the prime minister made these remarks at a working session with Tourism Ministry top officials.

Asks West To Put Pressure on Syria

NC2607103593 Paris AFP in English 1015 GMT 26 Jul 93

[By Charly Wegman]

[Text] JERUSALEM, July 26 (AFP)—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has called on Western governments to pressure Syria into halting Hizballah attacks from southern Lebanon, officials said Monday [26 July] as air strikes on Shiite and Palestinian targets continued for a second day.

Messages were sent Sunday night to U.S., Russian and other western leaders as the pro-Iranian Hizballah and Palestinian radicals riposted by rocketing Israeli border areas.

"The Israeli cabinet believes the Syrian authorities wish to uphold the peace process and will not become embroiled in the fighting underway in Lebanon," one official said.

The government has taken a calculated risk in launching Operation Accountability, Israel's biggest attack since the Lebanon war ended in 1985, that the peace process, which Hizballah opposes, will not be derailed.

However four Syrian soldiers have been killed and four wounded in air attacks and Syrian anti-aircraft guns have opened fire.

Damascus strongly condemned the operation as "brutal and cruel" and warned it jeopardized the Middle East mission of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher who arrives next week seeking to push forward the peace process.

Israeli leaders frequently use the expression that Syria "keeps two irons in the fire" by granting Hizballah freedom to rocket Israel and pursuing the peace talks.

Israel military intelligence chief Uri Sagi said: "The militants in the Shiite movement, equipped and financed by Tehran, are trained by Iranian Revolutionary Guards, but their bases are all sited close to Syrian army lines in Lebanon.

"The Lebanese government while perhaps not actively supporting the firing of Katyushas allows the Hizballah room to act."

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said the government "was not interested in dragging out the operations so as not to give Syria a pretext to reconsider its participation in the peace process.

But military chiefs have warned the operation will continue until the rocketing of northern Israel—which killed two Israelis and wounded 23 Sunday night—stops. And many analysts believe only Syrian intervention can ensure that.

Israel's leading military affairs commentator, Ze'ev Schiff, wrote in Monday's HA'ARETZ newspaper: "The exodus of people from southern Lebanon should lead the Lebanese government to take up the question with Damascus and Tehran so they put an end to Hizballah activities."

Thousands of southern Lebanese fled their homes Monday as the showdown between the Islamic fundamentalists and Israel went on.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said: "Israel had no choice but to attack Hizballah which wants to kill Israelis and the peace process."

Secretary of State Christopher repeated Monday a U.S. call for restraint on all sides, but he held Hizballah responsible for the trouble.

"We must not let the opponents of the peace process undermine it."

Peres: 'No Choice' Other Than Military Action

TA2507214493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1915 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Dov Gilhar—live]

[Text] [Gilhar] Good evening, Mr. Peres.

[Peres] Good evening.

[Gilhar] Two people were killed and 13 wounded in a katyusha attack on Qiryat Shemona this evening. Will this change the form or scope of Israel's attacks against Hizballah?

[Peres] First, we all deeply sympathize with the residents of Qiryat Shemona, and our hearts bleed in view of these casualties. In this case, however, Israel had no choice other than to put an end to the blatant provocations, the daily and nightly attempts to harm the peace of the Galilee. They have done this both in deeds and words. They left no room for doubt where they are heading. In my opinion, had the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] abstained from action we would have faced the same provocations and the same amount of casualties.

[Gilhar] Mr. Peres, people say that perhaps our reaction should have been swifter and harsher.

[Peres] I do not think this would have changed anything. I think Israel was wise to evince restraint and to issue warnings. We are neither bloodthirsty adventurers nor trigger happy. We are not looking for incidents. All we want is to ensure the safety of the residents and quiet in the region.

[Gilhar] But even after our strike today the katyusha attacks did not stop. What can stop this?

[Peres] Look, they too paid a very heavy price, and the final counting has still not been done, because we are

right in the midst of events. Both Lebanon and the crazy organization called Hizballah will draw the appropriate lessons yet.

[Gilhar] The residents of Qiryat Shemona are eager to hear for how long will they have to remain in the shelters and hear the echoes of the katyusha falls?

[Peres] I hope not for long. I must say that the perseverance of Qiryat Shemona is a credit to the entire country. I want to tell the residents of Qiryat Shemona that their status, their future, and the sacrifices they make are constantly weighed by the government. When the government considered what had to be done and what should be avoided, the security of Qiryat Shemona residents was a prime consideration.

[Gilhar] Is there any political activity parallel to the military activity, or is this form of activity abandoned in such days?

[Peres] From the political point of view Iran stands behind Hizballah by supplying it with instructors, weapons, and funds, while Syria is evincing a sort of neutral indifference. I hope that people in the world who are interested in these developments will justify Israel's positions, which were a combination of restraint and a powerful reaction.

[Gilhar] Do you believe that this action can be completed without a sharp ground operation?

[Peres] I hope so. We will do everything possible, however, to protect our security and to foil any attempt to destroy the peace process—because Hizballah is acting both against Qiryat Shemona and the peace process in the Middle East. The security of Qiryat Shemona residents and the continuation of the peace process are Israel's two main considerations.

[Gilhar] Thank you very much, Mr. Peres.

Discusses Objectives of Operation

TA2607111793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Gid'on Zelinger in the Jerusalem studio and Razi Barqay in the Qiryat Shemona studio—live]

[Excerpt] [Zelinger] Perhaps you could define for us what is no going on in the north. Are we talking about a war, an operation, an Air Force operation?

[Peres] We are talking about a comprehensive attempt to restore common sense and tranquility to all inhabitants of Lebanon. After all, Hizballah is not just a problem for Israel but also for Lebanon because this deranged group tries to disrupt life in and around Lebanon from its own soil and territory.

[Zelinger] What objectives are the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the government trying to attain at this early stage of the operation?

[Peres] I think it is a two-pronged effort: to strike directly at our attackers—that is, Hizballah and other participating organizations—and to get the attention of the pertinent populations and governments so that they may exert pressure to end Hizballah's rampage.

[Zelinger] You have probably defined your interim objectives. Could you tell us whether any of them has already been attained?

[Peres] In fact, one could say that we paused after each raid because this government in no way wanted to start with an all-out operation. We paused after each move to let them reach their conclusions and to stop ourselves from going farther. It is hard to judge by this morning's events. Earlier this morning villagers were cautioned. It is not our intention to harm innocent people. Even when pressure is brought to bear on the villages, our intention is not to harm people who live there, and that is why they were forewarned. Hizballah is still bragging and broadcasting all sorts of battle cries, but it really is a mess. It is a group of a few hundred people who have brought tragedy back to Lebanon, a country that is trying to rebuild itself. We believe Lebanese Prime Minister al-Hariri definitely wants to rebuild his country economically, and we have no intention or wish to stand in his way. However, if he cannot bring Hizballah under control he cannot control the country. So, what is the good of that?

[Zelinger] If necessary this operation could turn into a war.

[Peres] No, we have no intention to make war. Neither do we derive any joy from the fact that people are being hurt. Israel is doing what is necessary and is most logical. As I said, it is a two-pronged effort: to strike directly at those who assail Israel and to lift all other elements out of apathy and not allow chaos within their country.

[Zelinger] What about the peace process, the talks with Lebanon and Syria? Can this process continue even under these difficult conditions?

[Peres] Yes, definitely. It has happened before. I would like to remind you that during the peace process with Egypt we were forced to operate in Lebanon. We have no intention of stopping or scaling down the peace process. On the contrary, all those negotiating with us for the sake of peace should get involved and prevent those who want to destroy the peace process from attaining their goal.

[Zelinger] Disagreements in the cabinet: Could an argument between doves and hawks be evolving?

[Peres] I am pleased that there are disagreements. As you know, according to ancient Hebrew laws, if all 71 members of the Sanhedrin issued an unanimous ruling that was a sign not to execute it. I think it is good that there are diverse opinions in a democratic government. It also has a stable majority that ensures a consistent policy, and I see nothing wrong with differences of opinion in the cabinet.

[Zelinger] This cabinet, too, is having a hard time shaking off the trauma of Lebanon.

[Peres] As you know, Lebanon is not part of Eretz Yisra'el. The Lebanese, are also having a hard time ridding themselves of their own trauma.

[Barqay] Sir, I have been listening to your description of the operation, and if I heard you correctly you said it is a phased operation. So, where does this end or, more precisely, is there danger of Israeli becoming bogged down?

[Peres] I think we are in control of the entire mission. None of the moves made so far have strayed from the mission. As for the phases, the cabinet ministers were informed in advance how events would unfold and the ensuing reaction to each and every phase. We have not strayed from our goals.

[Barqay] No one is more familiar than you with the hornet's nest called Lebanon, where you know how things start but do not know how they will end.

[Peres] Look, this is not a war against Lebanon but against Hizballah. It is actually a foreign presence in Lebanon in that it receives its real instructions from Tehran. It is an Iranian foreign agent. Moreover, Lebanon's problems have always been caused by foreign agents and bodies and by deranged groups, and today Hizballah is the most outstanding foreign agent and deranged group in Lebanon.

[Barqay] Do you interpret the Syrian silence as tacit approval?

[Peres] Look, the Syrians do not really mind if Israel suffers or Hizballah suffers. They are not such great altruists. They are not in shock. I think the Syrians understand the operation's parameters and limits completely. It is not a question of Syria provoking Israel or Israel provoking Syria. Nobody wants to turn it into a Syrian-Israeli provocation or vice versa.

[Barqay] Hearing the messages coming from the United States, are you generally satisfied with the support, or at least the passive support, you have been getting from the U.S. Administration?

[Peres] Not only that, but I think the Americans know the exact source of this. A few weeks ago the United States took a very firm and clear position against Iran, which is spreading destruction, venom, poison, and hatred by means of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Israel, Hizballah in Lebanon, and clandestine groups in Egypt and other places in the world. That is a real catastrophe. [passage omitted]

Receives Call From Egypt's Musa

TA2607141893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Studio discussion between anchor Mikha Friedman and political correspondent Natan Gutman—live]

[Excerpts] [Friedman] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres canceled his visit to France, scheduled for 29 July, due to the situation in the north. With the extra time he now has on his hands he spent it, among other things, in a telephone conversation with his Egyptian counterpart, 'Amr Musa. Where does Egypt stand when Israel attacks terrorist targets in Lebanon?

[Gutman] This is a serious question, at least when judging from the remarks 'Amr Musa made to Shim'on Peres, of which we were informed by Israeli sources. Egypt is definitely displeased with Israel's operation in Lebanon. In the conversation, Musa expressed his and President Mubarak's concern over the events in the north. He asked for details of the operation and wanted to know what Egypt can do to stop the state of war in the north.

Shim'on Peres explained that the operation is not directed against Lebanon, only against Hizballah which wants to harm the peace process. Peres touched upon a familiar chord and told Musa: You in Egypt are familiar with the fundamentalist Islamic organizations, and you know their goals. As will be recalled, a wave of fundamentalist terror is currently sweeping Egypt. Our steps are calculated and surgical, Peres told Musa. We wish to restore the situation to what it was, that is: To continue the peace process and stop the firing of katyushas. This are the brief diplomatic messages Musa and Peres exchanged. [passage omitted covered in referent item]

[Friedman] Did Egypt threaten to take any action? We remember that, in protest of the Israeli attack on terrorists the war of Lebanon, Egypt recalled Ambassador Basyuni and Egypt did not have an ambassador in Israel for a long time.

[Gutman] No such threat was made at this time. At the same time, the telephone conversation itself constitutes a form of protest, but the recall of Ambassador Basyuni is not discussed in any way. No alternative dramatic step was mentioned. It was a mere expression of Egyptian concern.

Cabinet Members Briefed on Situation

TA2607062293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] The cabinet session lasted three hours last night to discuss the IDF's [Israel Defense forces] plans to continue operations in Lebanon. Political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that 11 ministers supported and Meretz's four ministers opposed continued operations. Ministers Ora Namir, 'Uzi Bar'am, and David Liba'i abstained. During the meeting it was noted that south

Lebanon residents were urged to abandon their homes on the eve of yet a new phase in the IDF's planned activities.

At the end of the meeting, the prime minister asked the ministers to stay in Jerusalem overnight so that they may be summoned at once. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0610 GMT adds: "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who was scheduled to travel to Paris today, has canceled his trip due to the events in the north."]

Meretz's Knesset faction and cabinet ministers convened this morning to discuss the situation in the north. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that at the beginning of the meeting some ministers and Knesset members expressed deep concern about an expansion of the fighting in Lebanon.

Ministers React to Military Action in Lebanon

TA2507124393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman outside the Prime Minister's Office and anchor 'Adi Talmor in the studio—live]

[Excerpts] [Gutman] The Israeli cabinet session has just ended. With me here is Environment Minister Yosi Sarid. Minister Sarid, did Meretz ministers support today's government action?

[Sarid] At this stage, and in the situation created, I can only say one thing, that I now pray for the wellbeing of our soldiers and residents in the north, and that all the assessments I voiced in the cabinet will be proven wrong.

[Gutman] In that case, we understand that it is hard to say you were overjoyed with the plan presented to the government.

[Sarid] My position and my vote are noted in the cabinet protocols.

[Gutman] Were there differences of opinion in the cabinet session?

[Sarid] I will not provide any arguments now. I have said what I want to say and I will not say anything more.

[Gutman] We heard that Meretz ministers voiced opposition in the cabinet to the action in Lebanon while the other ministers supported it. According to other information, it appears that the dispute was not too harsh but a continuation of the debate begun in Friday's [23 July] inner cabinet meeting. Today's debate was aimed at ratifying the decisions of Friday's inner cabinet session. Yosi Sarid opposed the move and prays that his assessments will be proved false. The other Meretz ministers also opposed the operation presented to the government for approval and preferred to continue along political tracks as long as possible. The cabinet meeting which just ended started at 0800 [0500 GMT] when the ministers heard two hours of security surveys which preceded the Air Force attacks on 10 terrorist targets in south Lebanon and the al-Biqa'.

Here is Economy and Planning Minister Shim'on Shetrit. You were one of the ministers who supported the operation in the cabinet.

[Shetrit] Today's operation took place after Hizballah went too far, and since its patrons in Iran and Syria and the Lebanese Government did not rein it in, there was no alternative but to do as we decided in the cabinet, if we want to maintain the status of the security zone.

[Gutman] What are the limits of this action?

[Shetrit] The limits depend on the behavior of the other side. We hope the other side will get the hint; a clear message that we are not prepared to let them live peacefully in the north while our people come under fire.

[Gutman] But if the limits depend on the other side, then it can get us bogged down in a Lebanese quagmire, in which we have already sunk in the past.

[Shetrit] The framework we decided on is such that there is care not to reach the point to which you referred.

[Gutman] Thanks to Minister Shetrit. We will now hear Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish.

[Harish] First, we have to see how the situation resulting from the military actions develops, but it is our assumption that Syria has a deep interest in maintaining quiet and stability in the region, and to continue the peace process, even if there are tensions here and there due to the development in Lebanon.

[Gutman] Are you not concerned that the operation might get out of control and there might be more than just one air raid?

[Harish] First, I hope the operation will not get out of control. The prime minister announced that he will keep the ministers closely informed if there is any need for consultations. There will be a very up-to-date report at each stage. There is an awareness of previous entanglements, and I think the prime minister has prepared the ministers for the need to be within reach in order to follow up developments.

[Gutman] When will there be another consultation?

[Harish] We are within reach if the need arises. That is only natural in such a situation.

[Gutman] What are dimensions of the Israeli operation?

[Harish] I will not go into the military aspect. That will be done by the prime minister.

[Unidentified correspondent] What about the dimensions.

[Harish] That is an operational aspect, and I do not think I should go into that.

[Gutman] Does the fact that there have been Syrian fatalities, at least according to reports, complicate the operation?

[Harish] As I have said, I think that in such a situation there are spheres where things develop differently than planned, but I do not believe that Syria, when taking into account its overall interests, will want to escalate matters.

[Gutman] Thank you, Minister Harish. We have heard that all Labor ministers supported the ratification of Friday's inner cabinet decision. [passage omitted]

[Talmor] There are two important points, that the Air Force raid was a one-time action, and we are now waiting for Hizballah's response. Is that correct?

[Gutman] That is correct. We are waiting to see what happens. If they do not respond then we will not react, and the whole thing will end. If they want to complicate matters, then we are also ready for that.

[Talmor] Minister Harish said he does not think Syria will want to escalate the situation although according to reports five Syrian soldiers were killed.

[Gutman] We will now hear Meretz Immigrant Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban. Are you also one of those who have reservations about the operation approved today?

[Tzaban] This is not the place to say anything. I am not going to respond to that, let us hope that everything takes place as planned.

[Gutman] Yesterday, you called for exhausting political options. Do you still think we can exploit that option?

[Tzaban] I will not go beyond what I have said.

Ben-Eli'ezer Comments on Mission of Lebanon Operation

TA2507123393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1114 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on a special television newsreel devoted to the military action in Lebanon—live]

[Text] [Sukenik] Mr. Ben-Eli'ezer, could one say that the plans presented by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] met with the full approval of the entire cabinet?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] One can say that the cabinet made a decision or basically endorsed the recommendations made by the inner cabinet last Friday [23 July]. After all, the government as such is committed to its decisions. On this issue, I believe that the government's sole consideration today was its ability to maintain security in the northern Galilee.

[Sukenik] How long will this operation continue?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] As far as we are concerned, the operation is over. The ball is now in Hizballah's court.

[Sukenik] And they have already fired katyusha rockets, which failed to land in Israeli territory. What about that?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I think that we delivered a very clear message at the beginning of this morning's operation, which at this stage, we would prefer to consider over. I believe that the chief of staff and defense minister clearly stated that continued provocations, or, in other words, the launching of additional katyushas at our civilian settlements, would legitimize our efforts to maintain security in the northern Galilee and to guarantee the safety of our soldiers through any means the cabinet deems appropriate.

[Sukenik] There are probably many people who are already concerned about Israel getting bogged down in a Peace for Galilee [name of June 1982 operation that began Lebanon war] style operation, the kind of thing that is easy to get into but hard to extricate oneself from. Does the cabinet know how to bring this affair to a close?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Despite all the criticism, I think that the way the cabinet has steered its decisions until today: The long period of restraint which lasted over 10 days, and the way we decided to hold ourselves back after the first stage, in order to see what kind of situation developed, indicates that this government has no desire to get itself mired down in anything. The government is only interested in upholding its supreme commitment to all Israeli citizens, to the residents of the Galilee, and to our soldiers.

[Sukenik] What about the danger of a confrontation with Syria? There have already been initial reports, albeit unconfirmed, that five Syrian soldiers were killed.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] First of all, I would not get overly impressed and start to indulge in all sorts of considerations and speculations on all sorts of reports coming in from....

[Sukenik, interrupting] But is there any concern over the possibility of such a confrontation?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Look, when you initiate such an operation, things cannot be completely fail-safe. Five of our soldiers were killed just one week ago, and several katyushas fell just a few days ago. I would not say that one can guarantee that everything will be foolproof in all aspects when launching such an operation. You make all the necessary preparations and create all the necessary conditions so that only those targets you deem central, and in this case Hizballah installations, will be hit. On the other hand, I hope that the Syrians got the message, and if we are already talking peace then I believe that their obligations with regard to the regional peace process are no less then ours.

[Sukenik] Thank you, Construction and Housing Minister Ben- Eli'ezer.

Says Settlers' Safety Must Be Ensured

TA2607090993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer says that Israel is prepared to stop activity in Lebanon immediately, if the northern settlements residents' safety is guaranteed and quiet is restored.

[Begin Ben-Eli'ezer recording] There is one rule in this type of war: The side which tires first loses. Thank God—and to summarize—following the first stage of the Air Force attack, we relayed a message to those interested that we were prepared to stop. We are prepared to stop now too, provided that the other side understands that all we seek is quiet. The message has to be clear: We will not allow them to control the lives of the northern Galilee residents. We will not allow them to call the shots and determine the rules of the game—this is the message. We do not want to resort to painful strikes. It is inconceivable that anybody thinks that we have an Army of toy soldiers; I am referring to an Army which went through numerous wars, and is prepared to deal with strong blows, but we do not want this. [end recording]

Ramon Hopes Christopher Visit Will Not Be Postponed

TA2607161993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Health Minister Hayim Ramon by Goni Mardor and Mikha Friedman—live]

[Text] [Mardor] Minister Ramon, NBC television just reported that Secretary of State Warren Christopher might postpone his visit to the region. Would this harm the peace process?

[Ramon] Yes. If this happens it would somewhat harm the peace process.

[Mardor] Only somewhat?

[Ramon] Yes, only somewhat. I still hope, however, that this report will not be confirmed. After all, we are operating against the greatest enemies of the peace process, namely Hizballah. Warren Christopher himself stated that this organization opposes the peace process and is responsible for the escalation in the north. Every action against an enemy of peace, such as Hizballah, should only strengthen the process rather than harm it. I therefore sincerely hope that this report will prove untrue, and that the secretary of state will come to our region and contribute to the peace process.

[Mardor] Minister Ramon, if Christopher does not arrive, does this mean that this Israeli operation does not enjoy the blessing of the United States?

[Ramon] We did not seek U.S. approval for this operation, which is aimed at ensuring the security of Israeli citizens and settlements along the northern border. In these issues only Israel will decide how to act. We cannot accept the dictates and provocations of Hizballah on how we should live in the north. Consequently we made our decisions without seeking anybody's approval. We based our decisions solely on the essential interests of Israel, and especially our northern settlements.

[Friedman] When discussing this operation, did the government consider the possibility that the political process could be harmed?

[Ramon] This possibility was certainly taken into consideration. We still hope, however, that even if there is some delay in the process, our operation will eventually contribute to the political process. The discussions in the cabinet were serious and lengthy, and the decisions were not taken overnight. All the ministers took this possibility into consideration. There is no alternative, however, to this operation. When asked what is their alternative, those who opposed the operation in fact implied that Hizballah's dictates and new rules should be accepted. This would have eventually led to the collapse of the security zone and would have severely harmed the security of northern Israel.

[Mardor] Minister Ramon, 31 hours after it started, where is the IDF operation heading?

[Ramon] I urge all of us to show patience. This is a serious test, and we must show determination and strong nerves. The operation is closely supervised by the government. This evening a cabinet meeting will be held. The operation is being conducted exactly according to the government's decisions. We sincerely hope that those elements who are responsible for the Hizballah operations, those who are enabling it to operate, will understand that we are determined to put an end to the situation which Hizballah is trying to dictate to us. I am referring here to the residents of Lebanon, to the Lebanese Government and to Syria. They all must understand that they have to exert all their influence—and they have a strong influence on Hizballah—to put an end to Hizballah activity against northern Israel.

Foreign Affairs, Defense Committee Chairman on Raid

TA2507101793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Knesset Member Ori Or, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, by Shalom Oren—live]

[Excerpt] [Oren] Were you one of those briefed this morning by the prime minister?

[Or] I certainly was.

[Oren] What can be said at this hour about the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation in south Lebanon?

[Or] I can say that the issue broached by the prime minister this morning has been with us for the past several weeks. I said some three months ago that the IDF will eventually have to retaliate to convince the Syrian and Lebanese Governments that any anti-Israeli activity or any attempt to destabilize the security zone through the current process will have to stop. The Air Force operation this morning begins a process that states: Let us restore the situation in the security zone to what it was several months ago.

[Oren] You have always advocated a harsh Israeli reaction.

[Or] I was always in favor of a reaction that would make it clear to the Lebanese Government—and I would regret any harm done to civilians—that there is no other way. As long as it cannot control Hizballah or south Lebanon and as long as Syria assists that organization, we will not accept it. They believe that Israel fears—and rightfully so—that they might fire katyushas at our northern settlements, hence it will not react. Therefore, there was no other way, and a response was necessary. I hope it will be as short as possible and will restore continued negotiations in an attempt to solve the problems at the negotiating table and not through constantly escalating exchanges of fire.

[Oren] Can such a military operation against the Hizballah stop katyushas aimed at the northern Israel?

[Or] We have said so in the past and, regrettably, I will repeat: Over the past 20 years, we have done almost everything possible in Lebanon. In some cases we had major successes. In others, we had major failures. No single operation can stop Hizballah activity. At the same time, we can create a new state of affairs in which the residents of south Lebanon—which began last Friday [23 July] in Jarju'—pressure their government by saying they cannot go on living when Hizballah operates from inside their villages as it if they were its own backyard.

[Oren] We would be innocent if we believed that the Lebanese Government can control south Lebanon.

[Or] I am not innocent; it has no influence there. At the same time, the Lebanese Government is being destabilized by the citizens' pressure. There is nothing more important to Syria than a stable Lebanese Government. A stable government can exist only if it heeds the demands of its citizens. It is important to both the Syrian and Lebanese Governments, and most importantly, it matters to the thousands of residents north of the security zone.

[Oren] If the Syrians wanted to, they could stop Hizballah activity, couldn't they?

[Or] The Syrians cannot stop it completely, but they occasionally need some pressure. Political pressure is apparently being applied, but it seems this is not enough. Military pressure making it clear to them that Israel will not avoid a retaliation, will also help. One of Hizballah leaders yesterday bragged that Israel will not retaliate because it wants to avoid fire on its settlements. I wish to make it clear to them: We do not want our settlements fired at, but we cannot sit idly by for long under this slogan. Therefore, I believe today's activity is correct, and I hope they will get the message delivered by the Air Force attack and reexamine their stands. If they fail to understand, I believe some of this activity will have to continue. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu, Shamir Comment on Military Action

TA2607063193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu says the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation in Lebanon is designed to remove the threat to the northern settlements, but it is also a political move aimed at Syria. Former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says the IDF operation must continue until the attacks on the northern settlements cease. He added the operation must continue and, to the extent that it is necessary, must be expanded. Netanyahu, Shamir, and other Likud Knesset members are currently touring the Galilee panhandle.

Ambassadors Launch Campaign To Explain IDF Operation

TA2607133293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Israel's UN Ambassador has been asked by the UN Security Council to provide it with a report detailing the terror activity of Hizballah and other terror organizations, and to stress that Israel is following its right to self-defense, according to the UN Charter.

France has asked Israel to immediately stop the operation against Hizballah in Lebanon. A French Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the attacks on Hizballah impinge on Lebanon's sovereignty and pose a threat to the Middle East peace process.

The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has launched an international campaign to explain the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation in Lebanon. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Deputy Director General Eytan Bentzur instructed Israel's ambassadors to update the foreign ministries in the countries of their service, explain the reasons for the operation, and stress Israel's restraint so far. The ambassadors will ask their host governments to influence Lebanon and the other elements involved in the events there to stop the activity of Hizballah and other terror organizations against Israel.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will appear tomorrow before the diplomatic corps in Israel and will explain the reasons for the IDF operation in Lebanon.

Rabinovich: U.S. Understands Reasons for Operation

TA2507162993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] The U.S. Administration understands the reasons for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation in south Lebanon. This was said by Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich after a meeting with Edward Djerejian and peace talks coordinator Dennis Ross in Washington. Ambassador Rabinovich told our correspondent Arye Golan that the United States realizes that Israel has not retaliated rashly against Hizballah's ongoing provocations, but has rather carefully calculated its every step. Ambassador Rabinovich also explained to his interlocutors that Israel's security would have been undermined by not retaliating, adding that the government has acted in such a way as not to harm the peace process.

Following the meeting, the United States called on the sides to show restraint in order not to harm the peace process.

Discusses Effects on Peace Talks

TA2507174493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to Washington, by Arye Golan on 25 July—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Ambassador Rabinovich, what was the reaction of your contacts at the State Department to the Israeli operation? Do they understand the motives and reasons for our action?

[Rabinovich] Yes, the operation and its underlying circumstances are definitely understood. This was no surprise. There has been a process of ongoing provocations and tension has built up over time. I think it is clear to State Department and U.S. Administration officials that Israel was in no rush to retaliate. It carefully weighed its every step, and finally found itself facing a situation where failure to retaliate would affect its security. Israel carefully calculated its reaction and considered the possible repercussions on the peace process and the secretary of state's upcoming visit. The State Department subsequently issued a general call on all parties to show restraint and permit the continuation of the peace process in order to resolve all the differences at their roots and not merely treat their symptoms. However, I believe that our motives met with understanding.

[Golan] Apropos the peace process, five Syrian soldiers were killed during IDF [Israel Defense Forces] shelling. This seems to have more of a direct effect. How can this affect the talks with Damascus?

[Rabinovich] I think that for some time already, the question of violence in south Lebanon has indirectly featured in the negotiations with Syria. When the situation leading to this morning's operation began to unfold, it became clear that the activity of Jibril's men, who have their center in Damascus, and the activity of Hizballah, which is totally dependent on Syria and through which it receives its supplies, could not be carried out at such a level and for such a length of time, without Syria at least turning a blind eye. There was a lot of speculation that the Syrian Government felt that this kind of pressure on the eve of the secretary of state's visit would improve its bargaining chips. We thought that this was playing with fire, and the flames have now risen to a point where the Syrians have become uncomfortable.

[Golan] But how can we predict Syria's reaction after Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' declared that any attack on Lebanon would be regarded as an attack on Syria.

[Rabinovich] I do not try to anticipate their actions. However, that declaration should be viewed as a statement designed to increase tension. After all, the Syrians were warned by Israel through the United States that the current situation was untenable. That led to the Syrian foreign minister's public assertion that any attack on Lebanon would be regarded as an attack on Syria.

[Golan] Could this also lead to the cessation of the peace talks with Syria?

[Rabinovich] I would put it like this. During previous rounds of talks, we were the ones who showed restraint. There were attacks on the security zone last autumn, as well. IDF soldiers were hurt. There were also attacks on northern Israel. We gritted our teeth and went on. I hope that the Syrians will feel that the talks are important enough to continue even when things become less pleasant for them.

[Golan] Thank you very much, Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich.

Press Predicts Retaliation Against Lebanon

TA2507103293

[Editorial Report] The Hebrew-language Israeli press on 25 July carry reports, commentaries, and editorials on the continuing tension along the border with Lebanon and warns of wide-ranged Israeli military action. The U.S. role in the deteriorating situation is also considered.

Tel Aviv DAVAR, in a front page banner headlined report by On Levi titled "Tension in Lebanon: Israel Has No Alternative But To Act Against Hizballah," writes that "in recent days senior military officers have focused increasing pressure on the prime minister and the political echelon to approve a military action in south Lebanon in order to strike a tough blow at the terrorist organizations. Security sources believe the pressure is expected to bear fruit and the government will be forced in the final analysis to favor military action in Lebanon."

Levi writes that despite Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's attempt to calm things down over the weekend "it should not be concluded that Israel is now entering a long period of restraint. The U.S. secretary of state's visit

at the end of the week guarantees that if military action is decided on, it is reasonable to assume that it will precede his arrival to the region."

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR on page 9, in a commentary written by Ori Or, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and a retired army general writes: "Israel will not be able to keep up the level of restraint it has maintained so far. If Syria continues to encourage the terrorist organizations to act, it alone will be responsible for activating the IDF's might." Or goes on to say he is opposed to defining "red lines." "They have to be left unknown. The less the enemy knows the less capable he is of reading the war map. It is important for things to remain vague. The security zone's boundary is not impassible."

On page 9, the DAVAR editorial, under the headline "Iran Is Targeted," refers to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's pronouncement Friday [23 July] that "we must be able to sometimes sustain blows and retaliate later, twice as hard. This, along with the ongoing peace process, will bring both peace and security," and his warning that "we will do everything so residents of the north will not be hostages." Davar writes: "It is easy to decide on military action that will show everybody that declarations by ministers and generals [illegible] back [illegible] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] might. It is much harder to ensure that such action will achieve its aim without increasing the number of Israeli civilian and military casualties and without harming the peace process." The editorial continues: "One week prior to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region, Israel must more than ever consider the political ramifications, but not due to any external pressure. If Christopher succeeds in mediating between Damascus and Jerusalem—the main sponsor of his trip is Hafiz al-Asad, who longs for [former secretaries of state] Kissinger- and Baker-style shuttle diplomacy—a major deal to assure security and peace will be worked out, which will include among other things, a price to be paid on the Golan Heights and in Lebanon."

The editorial says that while "al-Asad is the chief boss in Lebanon, he has a problematic partner, Iran. Reining in Iran's power in Lebanon, especially among the Shiites, is a joint aim of Israel, Syria, and the United States."

In a commentary on the same page, Moti Bassok writes, under the headline "Opening of an Era or Opening of Fire," that "Syria is encouraging hostilities against Israel in south Lebanon, but is sitting with Israeli representatives in Washington and talking peace. It seems that Israel treated terrorist Damascus with too much forgiveness, apparently due to Israeli eagerness to make progress in the peace process or to appear to international public as wanting peace." Bassok says that "Syria, unlike the Palestinians, has profited so far from the negotiations with Israel—its ties with the United States have improved a great deal, and therefore so have its relations with the EC," while "Syria has not given in one iota, even in declarations, and is getting everything."

Bassok concludes: "It is possible that an unequivocal declaration by Christopher, even prior to his arrival in the region, denouncing Syria's moves along the northern border, with veiled threats about continued U.S. involvement in the peace process, will return al-Asad to the process."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ, in a page B1 'Uzi Benziman commentary entitled "Just Before the Decision," says there is "a high probability that the Middle East climate will have its affect and the Israel Government will order the IDF to prove to the heads of Hizballah that they are not reading the situation correctly. By doing so, the government will do precisely what Hizballah heads want [illegible] to do." Benziman writes that while we can assume that the government is aware of the aims of the Hizballah provocations "it will surely respond in accordance with the expectations, because that is the way things go in the Middle East. There are cruel rules which dictate Israel's use of force from time to time even if its usefulness is doubtful. Israel tried to get the United States to convince Iran and Syria to restrain Hizballah, but without success."

Benziman concludes that unless there is an unexpected development the ball appears to be rolling in the direction of a wide-ranging military operation.

The HA'ARETZ editorial on the same page, under the headline "A Deterrent Force Exists," writes: "The Syrian ruler, who cannot surrender friendship with Iran and face Iraqi hostility alone, does not want to rein in Hizballah. Under these circumstances we have to think twice about any move the IDF is definitely capable of taking in order not to get involved in a confrontation with Syria." HA'ARETZ says that a wide-ranging military action would result in casualties to innocent people and would provide Syria with an excuse to leave the peace negotiations. But the newspaper warns: "Continued and increased aggression could result in a change in policy."

Al-Majali—Israeli Attacks Cause 'Grave Concern'

Bombings 'Obstacle' to Christopher Mission

JN2507195793 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Jordan condemned the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon. A statement by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said the escalation of Israeli military operations in south Lebanon, in terms of magnitude, weapons used, and heavy civilian casualties, is a cause for grave concern.

He said the aggravation of such aggressive operation is detrimental to the peace and stability in the region. Dr. al-Majali said the development of the situation will hamper the peace process at this critical juncture.

He said the timing of the Israeli military operations, days before a visit to the region by the U.S. secretary of state, will be an obstacle to the success of his mission.

The prime minister drew attention to the seriousness of the situation, and called for a political end to it. He also drew the attention of the United Nations Security Council for the need to take a decisive position to put an end to the aggression on Lebanon.

Solidarity With Lebanon Affirmed

JN2607084593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, yesterday evening held urgent contacts with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar', seeking details about the Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon.

Al-Hasan expressed the Jordanian Government's grave concern over these attacks. He also affirmed the Jordanian Government's solidarity with the government and fraternal people of Lebanon.

Israel Launching 'Mini-War'

JN2607090893 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Jul 93 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "Mini-Israeli War"]

[Text] Israel has carried out its repeated aggressive threats made over the past few days. Yesterday, it launched a mini-aerial war on large areas in southern and eastern Lebanon in a criminal attempt to paralyze the will of the Lebanese resistance and to prevent it from exercising its legitimate right to fight Zionist occupation.

Yesterday's aggression surprised no one, and this Israeli reaction was expected. However, the scope of the Israeli aerial aggression and the targeting of Syrian military positions were the most prominent features of this mini-war launched by the Israeli forces yesterday. The targets of the aggression reveal an intention to escalate the situation and tension as well as to create a grave regional atmosphere.

This large-scale aggression has special significance as it comes on the eve of the visit to the region by the U.S. secretary of state in an attempt to stop escalation and bring closer the views of the parties involved in the peace talks. These talks have been obstructed by Israel's rejection of the principles of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

In light of all this, we believe that the large-scale Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and the direct provocation of the Syrian forces operating in Lebanon are more than a routine Israeli reaction to resistance operations. This aggression aims to further escalate the situation, make the U.S. secretary of state's mission in his expected second tour difficult, and weaken the Arab approach to peace, which will witness further erosion as a result of such aggressions. These aggressions will increase tension in this part of the world which is charged with all dangers.

Editorial Calls for 'Decisive Measures'

JN2607094393 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Jul 93 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "A Clear Position on Aggression"]

[Text] Yesterday, Jordan strongly and clearly condemned the Israeli aggression on fraternal Lebanon, which killed or wounded several Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian civilians and troops.

The prime minister's statement to the Jordanian News Agency yesterday confirmed Jordan's position, which calls for a decisive measures to end the continued aggressive Israeli policy in Palestine and Lebanon and terminate its occupation of Arab territories.

In his statement, the prime minister asserted that the escalation in the Israeli war operations, in terms of magnitude and weapons used such as bombers, helicopter gunships, and heavy artillery against civilian targets in fraternal Lebanon, as well as the rise in human casualties and the damage to property all call for grave concern.

The prime minister cautioned that the timing of these aggressive operations prior to the U.S. secretary of state's visit is an obstacle to his mission. Moreover, the continuation of these aggressive operations will be detrimental to security and stability in the entire region, and will obstruct the peace process, particularly in this critical phase.

All day yesterday, the aircraft of aggression spread death and destruction, and wreaked havoc in the largest Israeli military operation since the 1982 Israeli invasion. This operation has martyred and wounded scores of Lebanese, Palestinians, and Syrians, who have been victims of continued terrorism and aggression. This aggression

did not differentiate between a Lebanese village, a Palestinian camp, and a Syrian military position.

Yesterday's aggression has only proved that Israel still thinks and behaves according to the policy of a racist and expansionist force, which continues to occupy Arab territories in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, and which defies the alleged international legitimacy and throws overboard the genuine Arab approach toward a just and comprehensive peace.

We would have wished that the Arab position toward this aggression had not been defeatist, indifferent, and idle. We also would have wished that the U.S. position had gone beyond the years- old expressions. These expressions equate the aggressor with the victim by urging the parties to show self-restraint, and by expressing concern over the tense situation. These U.S. expressions also ignore the fact that the Lebanese people are exercising a legitimate right to resist occupation. This right was recognized by all international laws and was exercised by all peoples, including the American people, in their struggle against oppression, aggression, and occupation.

Turkish Foreign Minister Arrives on 3-Day Visit

Comments on Israeli Air Raid

JN2507172293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin arrived in Amman this afternoon on an official three-day visit to Jordan, during which he will meet with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent; Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the prime minister; and a number of ranking officials. More details on the Turkish foreign minister's visit in the following report:

The Turkish foreign minister's talks will focus on entrenching bilateral relations and spheres of mutual cooperation, as well as a number of regional and international issues of mutual interest, topped by the Middle East peace and Turkey's role in the peace process.

It is known that Turkey has a special interest in the current peace process, and is a partner to the multilateral peace talks on water.

The Turkish minister and his delegation were officially received at Amman Civil Airport by a delegation led by Talal al-Hasan, the minister of state for foreign affairs, and his wife. The secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, the director of the Political Department at the ministry, the Jordanian ambassador in Ankara, the Turkish ambassador in Amman, the embassy's staff, and a number of officials also received the minister.

The Turkish minister is accompanied by an official delegation that includes the Foreign Ministry's assistant undersecretary for bilateral affairs, the special adviser to the foreign minister, the deputy foreign minister for Middle East affairs, and a number of Turkish Foreign Ministry officials.

The Turkish foreign minister's visit is part of tour that will include a number of countries in the region.

In a statement to reporters at the airport, the Turkish foreign minister expressed his pleasure in visiting Jordan, and hailed the historical and cultural relations binding Jordan and Turkey. He said: Bilateral relations have always been excellent.

He added that he will discuss bilateral relations with the Jordanian officials, along with regional and international issues, particularly the Middle East peace process. He said: Jordan has a sensitive location in the region, and it has a great role in the stability of the Middle East.

The Turkish foreign minister said his country, which participates in the multilateral talks on water, will do its best to render these talks successful.

On the topic of his next visit to Israel, he said this visit would be held in view of the diplomatic relations between Turkey and Israel. He said he would try, through this visit, to advance the peace process, in which his country is trying to actively participate. He stressed that this visit will not affect his country's relations with the Arab countries or its position on the Palestine question. He emphasized that he will directly discuss the peace process, the Palestine question, and stability in the region with the Israeli officials.

Talal al-Hasan hailed the historical, friendly, and close relations between Jordan and Turkey in various political, economic, and cultural fields. He said: Under instructions of His Majesty King Husayn, Jordan is eager to maintain the stability and the development of these relations toward the best.

The minister added: The Turkish foreign minister's visit to Jordan is a chance to realize greater bilateral cooperation in various sectors, at the bilateral, regional, and international levels, especially since Turkey has a strong position in the region. For our part, we will work to make the minister's visit to Amman successful and fruitful and help to realize positive results in interest of both countries.

He stressed that Turkey can play an important role in the peace process, especially in the multilateral negotiations.

The minister of state for foreign affairs expressed Jordan's condemnation and denunciation of the new Israeli aggression against Lebanon. In reply to a question, he said: We in Jordan always condemn such aggressions, which do not serve peace, and harm efforts to protect the peace process.

Answering a question on his expectations regarding the visit to the region that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will make in the next days, the minister said: Jordan welcomes this visit, which is new evidence of the

United States' determination to play an effective role and to assume the role of full partner in the peace talks. He added that Jordan pins hope on the important and basic role of the United States in giving a boost to the peace process.

[Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic at 1515 GMT on 25 July carries a similar report, adding the following: The Turkish minister denied that he is carrying any new proposals on bridging the gap between the Arab parties to the peace process and Israel. He said, however, that in his talks with the Israeli officials he would emphasize the Turkish viewpoint, which supports the Palestinians' right to an independent state, and the need to realize a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.

[Answering a question on his country's position on the new Israeli air raids on Lebanon, the Turkish foreign minister stressed that Israel should withdraw from south Lebanon because it is part of the peace process that all parties should try to advance.]

Al-Hasan Says Talks 'Fruitful'

JN2507194493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Official Jordanian-Turkish talks began at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon, in which bilateral relations and ways of developing them, the latest developments of the peace process, and the tragic situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina were discussed.

The Jordanian side to these talks, which lasted for more than one hour, was led by Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Turkish side was led by Hikmet Cetin, the Turkish foreign minister.

At the outset of the meeting, al-Hasan hailed the distinguished relations between Jordan and Turkey, and the common heritage that binds them together.

Bilateral relations and ways of developing them, particularly in the economic, cultural, and scientific sectors were discussed. Al- Hasan explained the developments in the peace process and the current contacts concerning peace talks. He also explained the Jordanian commitment to the principles and constants on which the peace process was based in order to realize just, comprehensive, and lasting peace that is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. The foremost of these are Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of land for peace, the inalienable and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and the full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem.

Al-Hasan also briefed the Turkish minister on Jordan's democratic march, which it is eager to maintain under the umbrella of the state laws, the Constitution, political pluralism, and respect for human rights and freedom.

The two sides also reviewed a number of regional and international issues of mutual concern, and stressed the importance of maintaining regional security and the territorial integrity of the countries in the region. They also discussed the tragic situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and called for a solution to end the tragedy, stop the bloodshed, and avoid double standards.

The guest minister hailed the wise policy of His Majesty King Husayn and the courageous role he assumes. He also hailed the stable Jordanian position and Jordan's central role, which represents a factor of moderation and stability in the region.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry's secretary general, the Jordanian ambassador in Ankara, a number of the ministry's officials, and members of the delegation accompanying the guest minister.

In statements to the Jordanian News Agency and Jordan Television, al-Hasan described the results of the meetings as fruitful and positive, and said the views of the two sides were identical on all bilateral, regional, and international issues that were discussed.

The minister said the Jordanian and Turkish sides both expressed their desire to bolster cooperation. He stressed the need for peace and security to prevail, based on UN resolutions, and for a comprehensive, lasting, and just peace to be realized in the region.

He said Turkey has a role in the multilateral negotiations, and that Turkey, as the Turkish foreign minister told him, will not spare any effort toward advancing and activating the peace process in order to realize its goals.

Jordan and Turkey today expressed their eagerness to bolster economic relations through increased trade volume between the two countries, and to study the possibility of agreements on relations between the private sectors in both countries to encourage joint investments and set up joint ventures in order to develop Jordanian- Turkish exports to world markets. [passage omitted]

King's Upcoming Visit to Turkey Hailed

JN2607052593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin has welcomed His Majesty King Husayn's three-day visit to Turkey, which he will begin on Sunday [1 August]. In an exclusive statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Cetin expressed his country's happiness with this visit, which will be an opportunity for the two great leaders—His Majesty King Husayn and his brother His Excellency President Soleyman Demirel—to meet to discuss bilateral and regional issues and the peace process.

In response to a question on his visit to Israel, Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said that he is carrying new ideas. He said: What we want from Israel is abidance by UN resolutions, the establishment of peace, security, and stability in the region, and granting the Palestinian people their legitimate rights. He said that in order for the peace process to succeed, Israel should implement these things.

Israeli Forces Begin Intense Shelling, Raids in South

Missiles Fired at PFLP-GC Base

NC2507132393 Paris AFP in English 1301 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Al-Na'imah, July 25 (AFP)—Two Israeli helicopters swept in from the sea and fired missiles at a Palestinian guerrilla base just south of Beirut on Sunday [25 July], an AFP photographer reported.

The helicopters fired two missiles at the base held by Ahmad Jibril's radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

The al-Na'imah base, 15 kilometres (nine miles) south of Beirut, had already been targeted by Israeli warplanes earlier in the day.

Five Syrians Reported Killed

NC2507104493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1038 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] REUTER carried a dispatch a few moments ago reporting that five Syrians soldiers were among the martyrs who fell in the Israeli raid on Mashgharah in al-Biqa' al-Gharbi.

Attack on Syrian Post Reported

NC2507164893 Paris AFP in English 1637 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Rashaya, Lebanon, July 25 (AFP)—Israeli helicopters attacked a Syrian Army position in southeast Lebanon late Sunday [25 July], killing one soldier and wounding three others, security sources said.

The helicopters struck at the army post in the Mashghara Valley.

Israeli air raids earlier killed two other Syrian soldiers and wounded a third.

Hizballah Reports Attacks

NC2507172093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1654 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] In a second prominent development, AFP cited Lebanese security sources a short time ago that Zionist helicopters attacked a Syrian Army position in Mashgharah Valley at 1900 today. It said one soldier was martyred and three others were injured.

Meanwhile, retaliating for the aggressive actions of the Zionist enemy, Islamic Resistance mujahidin attacked two Israeli positions in Haddatha and Bra'shit a short time ago. They clashed with the forces manning the positions, inflicting several losses on them. A Merkava tank was seen on fire in Haddatha.

Hizballah Claims Israeli Plane Hit

NC2507085093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0835 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] At 1030 this morning, Israeli warplanes raided Ba'labakk and Janta. At 1045, the enemy planes also carried out four raids on the 'Ayn al-Tinah area in western al-Biqa'. During its raid, the enemy dropped time bombs, which are still going off. Witnesses said one of the raiding planes was hit during the raid after Islamic Resistance anti-aircraft guns confronted the planes.

Hizballah's security committee called on citizens not to go near or gather around the targeted areas for their own safety.

A Zionist military spokesman said his warplanes raided the areas in retaliation for the recent attacks by the Resistance heroes against his positions in the south.

Air Force Strikes Resume

TA2507134293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1311 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Report by military correspondent Netan'el Semrik from the north zone]

[Excerpt] The Air Force attack in Lebanon resumed a short time ago. At this very minute, Air Force planes are attacking targets in Lebanon. From Lebanon we have also heard that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] artillery has started shelling targets north of the security zone.

According to an AP report from Lebanon that has just arrived, two Air Force planes fired missiles at the home of Hizballah's military leader in Lebanon, Kamil Balhas. Lebanese police report that the Hizballah leader was not at home at the time of the attack. According to the police, one woman, a nephew, and a son of Balhas were killed. So far we have received no IDF confirmation of this report. [passage omitted]

Operations Center Attacked

NC2507205693 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1851 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] According to the latest information from southern Lebanon, 19 Katyusha rockets were fired at northern Israel at 2050 today. Security sources say 155-mm artillery of the Lebanese Army continued to bombard the eastern sector of the border strip. Israeli warplanes continue to fly over the area of operations at low altitude.

The Hizballah operations center in the 'Abra area east of Sidon was hit by a missile fired by an Israeli helicopter. Israeli helicopters earlier fired four rockets at the Islamic Group position in the Karkha area.

Israeli helicopters are currently flying over Sidon. Israeli gunboats are cruising off the city. Israeli warplanes carried out mock raids over Iqlim al-Tuffah area. The

planes also staged a mock raid at low altitude over the al-Nabatiyah and fired flares, breaking the sound barrier and prompting the residents to think that the planes were carrying out a real air raid on al-Nabatiyah. Artillery exchanges are continuing on various fronts of southern Lebanon.

Hizballah Targets Said Attacked

TA2507221993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2200 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] A recapitulation of today's activity by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] General Staff indicates that 60 Hizballah targets—among them terrorist bases and the organization's radio station—were attacked in the IDF operation, codenamed Operation Account [din vehesbon]. The IDF used helicopter gunships, fighter jets, and artillery. The IDF is continuing military activity in south Lebanon at the present time.

[Later in the same newscast the following is added: "Two IDF soldiers were wounded by katyusha fragments that landed near soldiers on routine activity in south Lebanon this evening. The two soldiers were transferred for medical treatment in Israel."]

Helicopters Raid al-Nabatiyah

NC2507194393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1910 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] We have just received the following: At about 2200 today, four helicopters carried out a raid against al-Nabatiyah and its suburbs while Israeli fighter aircraft supplied air cover.

Heavy concentrations are occurring at the Kafr Tibnit crossing and heavy artillery shelling is taking place all the areas of al-Nabatiyah. It has been learned that Muhammad 'Ali 'Allush and 'Ali Muhammad Shirri are among those who were wounded in the shelling of al-Nabatiyah.

Israeli Air Attacks Continue

NC2507192493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] We have just received the following: The Israeli enemy aircraft have been continuing their savage raids since 1945 today. The attacks are currently concentrated against the central sector and al-Nabatiyah. The Lebanese Army in the area is returning fire at the sources of the fire. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the south has noted that a general state of alert prevails in all southern areas that have been the target of Israeli aggressive actions.

Hostilities Updated

NC2507184093 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1750 GMT 25 July 93

[Text] We have just received the following report from the news desk: After a relative lull in the security situation, our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah Dani Nur-al-Din reported a short while ago that the Israelis resumed their violent bombardment of Iqlim al- Tuffah heights and that shells are falling heavily on the Jabal Safi area, Mlita hills, and 'Ayn Bu Siwar.

Israeli aircraft this evening again raided positions in Rashayya in western al-Biqa', killing a Syrian soldier and injuring three others. Israeli aircraft raided the villages of Suhmur and Yuhmur in western al-Biqa', where Hizballah artillery emplacements are located. Earlier today Israeli planes raided a Hizballah position in Mashgharah in al-Biqa', killing five Syrian soldiers.

Israeli helicopters between 1900 and 1930 today raided Haris, Tibnin, 'Ayta al-Jabal, Majdal Silm, Zibqin, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Kafr Tibint, and Shaqra.

Israeli radio reported it will extend its transmission all night to follow up developments and [words indistinct] the South Lebanese Army radio.

Hizballah sources maintain that its forces have announced general mobilization.

The meeting held this evening at the home of President Ilyas al- Hirawi in al-Hazimiyah—which included Prime Minister Rafiq al- Hariri, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz—ended at approximately 2020. After the meeting, Buwayz said that it has been decided to keep the meetings open to follow up the situation. It has also been decided to lodge a complaint with the UN Security Council against the continued Israeli acts of aggression against south Lebanon and to summon the major powers' ambassadors accredited to Lebanon for consultation on the new developments and tense situation in the south.

Israeli Aircraft Raid Palestinian Camp in Tyre

NC2507155493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1517 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Our correspondent reported a short while ago that Israeli aircraft raided the al-Buss camp in Tyre, wounding two people. Our correspondent also reported that Israeli helicopters fired six rockets at the area of al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa at 1715 today. The shelling against Kafr Tibnit and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah is continuing. Our correspondent added that the house of Isma'il Muhammad 'Abdallah in Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and the house of Ghazi 'Illawi were both hit by two rockets. Fire broke out in the two houses. Civil defense teams rushed to the area to extinguish the fires. [passage omitted]

It has been learned from a security source in Tyre that at 1630 today Hizballah fired a new salvo of katyusha rockets at the border strip. The same source added that 11 katyusha rockets fell in the western sector of the south. The Israeli artillery responded immediately by shelling villages about 10 km north of the occupied border strip. Lebanese police have reported that some of these villages have come under shelling for the first time in 10 years.

According to a new casualty count prepared by the security services in Sidon, nine people were killed and 27 others have been wounded during the raids today. Among those killed were two Syrian soldiers.

Al-Baddawi Camp Attacked

NC2507222893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2128 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] An old base in the al-Baddawi camp [near Tripoli] has been under fire from Israeli gunboats since 2300 today at the rate of one shell per minute. Fire was returned from the camp area. No casualties have been reported.

IDF Claims Raid on Ahmad Jibril Base

TA2607044393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0433 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Here is an official announcement by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman on Israel Navy's participation in the attacks in Lebanon: An Israel Navy force made up of missile boats and naval commandos raided a terrorist base in the Tripoli area last night. The raid was accompanied by shelling from the missile boats. Our troops are all safe. The raided base belonged to Ahmad Jibril's organization. According to foreign news agencies, the IDF's naval force attacked a terrorist naval base, and the raid resulted in fatalities and casualties. The news agencies also report additional Israel Navy activities in Sidon.

Israel's 'Operation Account' Continues 26 Jul

Further on al-Baddawi Attack

NC2607053293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] The area of al-Baddawi, a deserted military base of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Commmand, has been coming under shelling from Israeli gunboats since 2300 yesterday. The shelling stopped at 0030 today and resumed at 0200, when it was more fierce, and explosions could be heard at regular intervals. The shelling stopped at 0230.

At 0645, Israeli warplanes overflew Tripoli toward the al-Baddawi and al-Barid areas. We were then informed by Captain Mundhir al-Ayyubi that the warplanes raided the al-Baddawi and al-Barid areas and wounded people were being evacuated from al-Baddawi and from the 'Akkar region. Correspondents and photographers took pictures of a big explosion in the al-Baddawi area. Ambulances are rushing to the scene, but fears of time bombs in the area prevent them from getting close.

Hizballah Radio Reports More Raids

NC2607052293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] The Zionist troops continue their aggression against areas in the south. The heavy artillery bombardment targeting all the villages in Tyre, Tibnin, al-Nabatiyah, Marj 'Uyun, Bint Jubayl, and Iqlim al-Tuffah is still in progress. The [Israeli] warplanes continue to overfly the south, dropping scores of illumination flares and breaking the sound barrier. Helicopters carried out several raids against villages during the night. In a preliminary count, the number of raids carried out by the hostile planes against the south reached 20 against approximately 30 civilian houses.

According to early reports, over 25 people were wounded and at least five civilians were martyred in the south alone. In Lebanon, 14 people were martyred in yesterday's aggression and 50 were wounded.

[In a related report, Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic at 0447 GMT on 26 July adds the following: "The latest security reports from the south indicate that Zionist warplanes raided the Wadi al-'Ayshiyah area between Khirbat Silm and Majdal Silm and the outskirts of Haris 10 minutes ago. Shortly before 0700 this morning, the Haddathah-Rshaf road came under heavy artillery bombardment by the Zionist guns."]

[In another, brief report, Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic at 0456 GMT on 26 July adds the following: "A short time ago, AFP reported that Israeli warplanes raided Dayr al-Zahrani and Humin al-Fawqa. The agency said this is the first time in more than 10 years that these two villages have been hit."]

Syrian, Lebanese Troops on Alert

NC2607062993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] In western al-Biqa', security sources have reported that the Syrian Army in the region has reinforced its positions and is in a state of alert. Syrian positions were bombarded by Israeli warplanes yesterday, leaving three Syrian soldiers dead. The same sources added that the Lebanese Army in the region has also reinforced its positions and is in a state of alert.

Shelling of Villages Reported

NC2607084493 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0835 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Our correspondent has just informed us that the Israeli forces are directing concentrated shellfire at Jba',

'Arab Salim, Jarju', Qabrikha, Shaqra, Majdal Silm, Bra'shit, Kafra, Yatar, Zibqin, Siddiqin, Jibshit, 'Aytit, and Haddathah.

It should be recalled that the inhabitants of these villages were warned this morning that the villages would be attacked and that they were advised to keep away from them.

Israeli Reinforcements Noted

NC2607085193 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0835 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] AFP has reported that the Zionist army sent 26 M-113 armored personnel carriers, 144 troop trucks, supplies, and water and fuel tanks to the occupied border zone. The agency added that these reinforcements bring the number of occupation troops now inside the security zone to approximately 2,000 Zionist troops.

Israeli Navy Blocking Tyre, Sidon Ports

NC2607093593 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0922 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Here is a flash from the news desk: Our correspondent has learned from reliable sources that the Israeli Navy is now blocking shipping traffic in the ports of Tyre and Sidon, as part of its operations against saboteurs. Our correspondent adds that these sources advise the captains of civilian ships to refrain from entering or leaving the aforesaid ports to avoid any unintentional damage.

More Raids on Palestinian Camps

NC2607101693 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] The Israeli aggression continues against the villages in the south, western al-Biqa', northern al-Biqa', and the north.

The latest reports say Israeli planes raided the entrance to the al-Miyah wa Miyah camp, targeting a Fatah position. The raid destroyed the building and caused a number of casualties.

The 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp and the villages of Zibqin, al-Sultaniyah, Khirbat Silm, 'Arab Salim, and Jarju' also came under a similar raid and a raid targeted the outskirts of Mashgharah.

Situation, Casualty Toll Updated

NC2607105393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1020 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] The Israeli attacks against Lebanon have not ceased since this morning. The Israeli occupation army used aircraft, naval units, and heavy artillery in its repeated operations. These attacks have been met with a suitable response by the Lebanese Army and the resistance. Army units have prevented Israeli gunboats from approaching the northern coast, employing appropriate weapons. The Army also opened fire at Israeli gunboats which attacked its positions in Sidon. In the south, the Army artillery responded to the Israeli artillery emplacements which shelled residential areas.

There have been four Israeli raids against Palestinian and Hizballah targets since 1100 today. One of the raids targeted al-Miyah wa Miyah camp, on the outskirts of Sidon. An Israeli fighter aircraft fired a single missile at the camp. At about the same time, the Israeli fighter aircraft bombed Zibqin and Khirbat Silm in the Tyre area. Two Phantom aircraft attacked an Islamic Resistance position in the Suhmur village, in western al-Biqa'.

Meanwhile, Israeli 155-mm artillery shelled all the mountain villages in the Iqlim al-Tuffah facing the occupied border strip. A military source said that the Lebanese Army has returned fire at the sources of the Israeli shelling.

Hizballah announced today that three of its members were killed during the shelling against its positions in Mashgharah, in western al-Biqa'. This has brought the provisional casualty toll of the Israeli raids and shelling to 21 dead and at least 60 wounded.

[Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic at 1035 GMT on 26 July adds that "the latest casualty toll is 26 dead and more than 90 wounded, most of them seriously. The casualties include six Syrian soldiers."]

Warning Issued to Village

NC2607112993 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1100 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] We have received the following statement from responsible security sources:

Following the firing of rockets on northern Israel and the border area from al-Nabatiyah last night, the Israeli army will attack Hizballah targets in the villages and towns north of the border area, including the town of al-Nabatiyah, starting at 1600 today.

There are Hizballah elements in the town of al-Nabatiyah, including known terrorists such as Shaykh 'Adil Nadir, Samir al- Madani, and 'Abbas Rahmah alias Abu-Fadil. Their homes are bases used by the perpetrators of terrorist operations.

To avoid harming civilians who live in al-Nabatiyah near the terrorists' bases and houses, the security sources advise people who have not left their houses to get as far away from the area as fast as they can by 1600 today.

These sources reiterate that if calm and security do not prevail in northern Israel and the border area neither will they prevail in al-Nabatiyah.

Our correspondent who conveyed this statement added: As long as there are terrorists, like the three named here, among the inhabitants of al-Nabatiyah, innocent citizens will be in great danger, because Hizballah houses and offices are regarded as purely military targets.

Four Raids in South Reported

NC2607115593 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1140 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Our correspondent has reported from western al-Biqa' that at 1215 today, enemy aircraft carried out four successive raids against Suhmur, Mashgharah plain, and 'Ayn al-Tinah. At 1240, the aircraft again raided 'Ayn al-Tinah. The occupation forces shelled the valley between Suhmur and Yuhmur at 1300 from their positions in Marj 'Uyun. At 1330, the enemy aircraft once again attacked 'Ayn al-Tinah. The aircraft released thermal balloons to avoid SAM missiles.

In the north, the air and naval attacks against al-Baddawi camp left 18 people dead and more than 30 others wounded.

Israeli Commandos Destroy PFLP-GC Base

NC2607120293 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1141 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] The terrorists' positions, centers, and bases in southern Lebanon, western al-Biqa', and the north are still the targets of Israeli air, ground, and sea bombardment. In the north, Israeli warplanes bombarded the al-Baddawi camp, destroying installations and positions of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC]. Between seven and 10 members of the front were killed and 20 others were injured.

Israeli naval commandos carried out a landing operation on the al-Baddawi coast and destroyed a PFLP-GC base there.

Israeli Aircraft Raid Sidon

NC2607121193 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1146 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] We have just received the following: Israeli warplanes raided the center of Sidon a few minutes ago.

New Raids, Casualty Toll Reported

NC2607133193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] According to the latest information from the south, enemy warplanes raided eastern Sidon at 1550. At 1500, Israeli warplanes raided the deserted Army barracks near Kafr Rumman hills in al-Nabatiyah. Enemy helicopters also raided Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, 'Aytit, and Zibqin. Meanwhile, artillery shelling against Iqlim al-Tuffah, Kafr Tibnit, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr is continuing. Citizen 'Abd-al-Karim Yasin was injured in Kafr Tibnit.

A short time ago, Israeli warplanes flew low over Sidon and its suburbs, breaking the sound barrier and smashing the glass windows of a large number of houses.

It was reported a while ago that al-Nabatiyah is now coming under severe artillery shelling.

In a new casualty toll as a result of the continuing Israeli aggression since yesterday, 28 people have been killed, more than 90 injured, and hundreds of thousands fled their villages to safer areas. Enemy radio announced that the warning to citizens living near Hizballah positions and offices to leave their houses has been extended until 1600 today; this has caused panic among citizens.

Officials Discuss Response to Israeli Aggression

NC2507202693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Excerpts] A meeting was held this afternoon at the house of President Ilyas al-Hirawi in al-Hazimiyah, which was attended by the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, the prime minister, the defense minister, the foreign minister, and the army commander. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, Minister Buwayz made the following statement: At the invitation of his excellency the president, a meeting was held this afternoon, attended by the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, the prime minister, the defense minister, the foreign minister, and the army command. During this meeting we reviewed the field developments, particularly the damage resulting from Israeli raids and aggressions since this morning. A number of political, diplomatic, and field decisions were made, including summoning the ambassadors of the permanent members of the UN Security Council tomorrow morning, lodging a complaint with the UN Security Council, and recalling the Lebanese ambassador in Washington. A number of field measures were also been adopted to ensure self-defense and resistance against the Israeli aggressive actions.

In these critical moments we call on the Lebanese people to rally around the legitimate authorities and the armed forces and to maintain discipline and self-restraint in order to achieve the highest possible level of steadfastness in the face of these aggressive actions.

He was asked: It has been reported that a paratrooper force will be going to the south.

Minister Buwayz replied: The Lebanese Army will see how to implement such measures, and it is free to do what is suitable in these circumstances.

He was asked: Will the Lebanese Army respond if attacked?

Minister Buwayz replied: The Lebanese Army will not hesitate to defend itself and its positions.

He was asked: Is there information about further Israeli escalation?

Buwayz replied: We have repeatedly said that, on the eve of the U.S. secretary of state's tour in the area, Israel is

trying—as it has done constantly—to escalate the situation in the southern Lebanese arena so it can propose a higher level for negotiations with the Arabs. We think that this escalation is designed to put the issue of the south on the negotiating agenda so that security issues and not political ones will be raised during the talks. We think that this method, which Israel has been constantly using, will be useless because everything that is now happening is the result of the Israeli occupation and nothing else.

He was asked: Is there any fear of a limited or large-scale Israeli operation?

He replied: We studied all possibilities, and a common clear stand involving diplomatic, political, social, and military measures was adopted. This meeting will remain open and could resume at any time, depending on what happens on the ground.

He noted that the meeting with the ambassadors of the major powers will be held at the Foreign Ministry.

Security Council Session Requested

NC2607121993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1125 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Report by Khalil Fulayhan]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz announced a short while ago that Lebanon called for a UN Security Council session to discuss the Israeli aggressions after it had lodged a complaint about them. Buwayz stressed the importance of the role that the Security Council should play. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri: Higher Defense Council To Meet

NC2607113693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1126 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] We have just received the following from the newsdesk:

A meeting between Chamber Speaker Nabih Birri and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri ended a short time ago. The Prime Minister said afterward: The Higher Defense Council will convene this evening. We will announce what we believe is appropriate. He added that the government has made every effort to resolve the newly created situation.

Buwayz Supports Direct Contacts Over UN Complaint

NC2507122393 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Commenting on the Israeli acts of aggression, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said every time a delegation visits the region or some political initiative is put forward, Israel escalates the situation with the aim of negotiating military and security issues rather than substantial political ones. This is part of the continuing Israeli policy. He said: We believe the absence of a candid, clear position on the issue by the international community is a form of collusion and emphasizes this approach. He added: We believe this attitude will definitely harm the atmosphere and prospects for the peace negotiations.

On the possibility of Lebanon lodging a complaint with the Security Council, Buwayz said: Regrettably, everyone knows the state of affairs of the Security Council and the United Nations. The complaint may be a routine matter, therefore direct contacts with some countries could be more effective than complaining to the UN Security Council.

Receives Call From Egypt's Musa

NC2607113193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1020 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz received a telephone call early this morning from his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa during which Musa denounced the Israeli attacks against Lebanon and inquired about developments. Musa will summon the U.S. ambassador in Cairo to convey his country's objection to Israel's aggression against Lebanon and to call for an immediate end to it.

Meets Envoys of Security Council States

NC2607110893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1020 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] The meeting between Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and the heads of the diplomatic missions of the five permanent UN Security Council member states began at the Foreign Ministry at 1315 today. Buwayz is briefing them on the serious military deterioration that has been taking place since yesterday morning as a result of the Israeli attacks against the south, al-Biqa', and the north. Minister Buwayz asked that their governments intervene to put an immediate end to the Israeli air and artillery attacks. The meeting was attended by the ambassadors of the United States, Russia, and France and the charge d'affaires of Britain and China. It is still not known whether these countries support convening the UN Security Council to end the Israeli attacks after Lebanon decided to lodge a complaint with the UN Security Council against these attacks.

Defense Minister: Israeli Attacks Undermine Talks

NC2507215293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Commenting on the Israeli aggression against large parts of Lebanon, Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul said: We invite the entire world, particularly the United Nations, to visit Lebanon and see for themselves the falsehood of the Israeli claims about attacking military targets when it is in fact conducting savage raids against villages and towns in the south, western al-Biqa', and

Ba'labakk. Minister Dallul added: On this occasion, we ask the world: When a woman in the ninth month of her pregnancy is killed in Siddiqin and the women and children of 'Ayn al-Tinah are killed, are these military targets, in Israel's view? What has occurred in Siddiqin and 'Ayn al-Tinah also happened in other villages that came under attack. The scores of wounded children and women who have been moved to the hospitals for treatment, some of them with serious wounds, prove this.

Dallul said: Israel's warning that our valiant Lebanese Army should not intervene will not make us retreat from our firm position and our decision to shoulder our responsibility in defending our people and territory and in resisting the aggression, especially since Israel has permitted itself to kill civilians. It is imperative for us to respond to the aggression and defend our people in the south and al-Biqa'.

He added: As for Israel's allegation that it is defending the Galilee in occupied Palestine, we tell it firmly that the aggression will only increase our adherence to our legitimate rights to use all means of self-defense. Israel will not succeed in achieving its claims. It should hasten to withdraw its occupation army, which is the sole condition for achieving security. Otherwise, it will be miscalculating if it counts on us to surrender to its conditions.

Minister Dallul said: The negotiations have no value as long as Israel continues its aggression. Israel hides behind the peace talks and uses them as an excuse to attack the Lebanese on their own territory with a view to forcing them to leave their villages. This will not be achieved as long as our Army and people are standing in the same trench against it.

[London MBC Television in Arabic in its newscast at 1600 GMT on 25 July carries brief recorded remarks by Defense Minister Dallul on Lebanon's reaction to the latest Israeli and Lebanese military actions. In the recorded telephone conversation with an unidentified MBC Television reporter, Dallul says: "The Higher Defense Council may meet to discuss the aggression. We believe the attacks may harm the peace negotiations. Through this aggression, Israel has starkly proved that it rejects peace and is trying to abort the peace process. How can we hold a dialogue when Israel is attacking our peaceful people, killing our children, and targeting civilians and old men in our villages?"]

Says 'Israel Does Not Want Peace'

NC2607063593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Interview with Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, in Beirut, by correspondent Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, carried within the "Dialogue from Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Let us start by discussing the Israeli raids on Lebanon.

[Dallul] These raids reconfirm that Israel does not want peace and is an aggressive state that targets Lebanon's stability and security. Otherwise, how can we explain its shelling peaceful citizens, old men, women, and civilian houses from the air, land, and sea. It bombards these people mercilessly as if it wants to force them to leave their villages and houses. We call on the international community to come and see for themselves that the sites targeted by the Israeli raids were civilian, areas where poor families live and earn their living from agriculture. The dead and wounded in the hospitals are the best evidence of what we are saying and of the false Israeli claim that it seeks to ensure the security of the Galilee. Its security cannot be ensured by killing women, old people, children, and the sick, by shelling their houses, or by destroying their farms. The Galilee's security will be achieved through Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese territory and the implementation of the UN and Security Council resolutions. If Israel wants peace, this is the road to peace.

[Al-Jundi] Lebanese Defense Minister Dallul, Israel is basically called upon to implement Security Council Resolution 425, which calls on Israel to withdraw from south Lebanon. What steps will Lebanon take to compel Israel to comply with the international resolutions and stop these raids?

[Dallul] We might call Lebanon's Higher Defense Council to a meeting to draw up the plan to confront the criminal and spiteful aggression. We, and many in Lebanon, are also asking what is the value of the peace negotiations if Israel does not want peace. We are looking at the negotiating process cautiously and suspiciously, because Israel is daily proving that it rejects peace. The latest aggression is conclusive proof of Israel's hostile intentions toward Lebanon, its security, and its people.

[Al-Jundi] Minister, do you believe this latest Israeli raid on south Lebanon might affect Lebanon's participation in the next round of the peace negotiations?

[Dallul] Yes, it might affect it. It is my view that the raids will affect participation, because the public in Lebanon clearly and definitely believes it cannot remain patient indefinitely or be subjected to Israel's aggression while a dialogue is held with Israel about the implementation of Resolution 425. The public here is now saying that if Israel were serious about implementing Resolution 425, it would have said so from the start. Everyone knows that 10 rounds of negotiations were held with Israel prevaricating. Israel wants to lure Lebanon into a unilateral deal, detach it from the Arab stance, and create a split in Lebanese society. We know this and reject it categorically.

[Al-Jundi] Observers say these Israeli raids on south Lebanon represent Israeli pressure in its negotiations with Lebanon. Is that so?

[Dallul] We have stressed our clear stance from the time the negotiations started. We also received assurances from the cosponsors that the talks between Lebanon and Israel will be confined to the implementation of Resolution 425. All Israel's attempts to discuss security or any other issue before its withdrawal from our territory and the ending of the occupation are unacceptable to us and are doomed to failure, because Lebanon is determined to discuss and implement Resolution 425. It is determined to end the occupation of its territory. Lebanon is also part of the Arab group and that which applies to this group applies to Lebanon. Lebanon agrees with any issue upon which the Arabs agree.

[Al-Jundi] Minister, do you intend to join Israel in drafting security arrangements for south Lebanon?

[Dallul] First, the Israeli withdrawal must be effected. We are not a police force to protect Israel. Israel has the military capability to protect itself. We pledge that once Israel leaves our territory, we will allow no force to operate or military action to take place from our territory against Israel. We have emphasized this and continue to do so daily and on every occasion. Apart from that, it would be impossible for us to act as a police force to protect those who occupy our territory and are after our resources.

[Al-Jundi] But do you believe that the Lebanese Army, with its capability, is indeed qualified to fully control the situation in south Lebanon and make it secure?

[Dallul] Yes it could. We have made a pledge on this and we could provide full guarantees. We will make sure that security becomes, first and foremost, the responsibility of the official Lebanese authority.

[Al-Jundi] Minister Dallul, how do you view the Israeli raids, especially as they come a few days before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East region?

[Dallul] It is in Israel's interest to terrify and scare Lebanon, to cause a rift within Lebanese society, and to see that the negotiations or the visits by U.S. officials proceed in a heated atmosphere. Thus, Israel does not have good intentions and does not want peace. If it did, why would it cling fast to the Lebanese and Arab territory? All the world knows there is an equation applicable to all international relations. He who wants peace cannot have peace and territory at the same time. It is either peace or territory. Israel is engaged in maneuvers and ploys and wants to drag us into discussing issues that are far from our demand for the restoration of our territory and rights. We reject this and will not fall into the Israeli trap.

[Al-Jundi] At the end of our dialogue, we thank Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, who is with us on the telephone from Beirut. Voice of the Arabs thanks you very much Minister.

[Dallul] Thank you.

Nationalist Parties Call For General Mobilization

NC2607055793 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0540 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] The nationalist parties and forces in Sidon met at deputy Mustafa Sa'd's house last night. The parties and forces issued a statement, calling for a general mobilization to confront the all-out war being waged by the enemy against the resistance and the south.

The delegates praised the resistance heroes and the martyrs of the Syrian Army who fell while confronting the Zionist arrogance.

Fadlallah Vows Retaliation if Shelling Continues

NC2307191293 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stressed that nothing is off limits for those whom he described as the mujahidin against Israel. He added that if Israel continues to follow the policy of scorched earth and shelling civilians, the resistance will be compelled to follow the same policy with the Israelis.

Fadlallah pointed out that the Islamic Resistance has given the world a living example that it managed to foil the political and psychological plans that the enemy tried to impose through pressure on several levels. He added: We will turn their land into scorched earth and kill their women, children, and the elderly if they harm and shell the civilians, not the mujahidin.

Hizballah Leader Comments on Events in South

NC2507210593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Statement by Hizballah Secretary Hasan Nasrallah in a meeting with journalists 25 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. May God's prayers be on our prophet Muhammad, his virtuous family and companions, and all martyrs and mujahidin for the cause of God. Once again the Israeli enemy launches an aggression against our people, kinsfolk, villages, and civilian houses. This was preceded by weeks of [word indistinct] intimidation and threats. The Israeli enemy carried out air raids today. This was expected from the very beginning. Until the recent past, we ruled out the possibility of the Israeli enemy launching a large-scale operation for many reasons. We expected the enemy to opt for air raids, a display of which was made today under the headline of retaliating for the Islamic Resistance operations over the past few days.

I would like to discuss a number of points here. First, the Israeli enemy found no way to retaliate for the mujahidin operations or to restore the morale of its defeated soldiers and its burned agents in the border strip other

than to resort to the air force and to the American-made war planes. The enemy avoided confrontations with the resistance men in the fields of jihad, fighting, honor, and manhood. The Israeli enemy fears such confrontations and knows in advance the extent of losses its soldiers and agents may sustain. The enemy also realizes that the morale of its soldiers and agents does not allow them to engage in such confrontations at a time when the mujahidin of the resistance enjoy extremely high spirits, enabling them to score major successes in such heroic confrontations, such as in Kafra and Yatar and in 'Aqmata in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Thus, the Israelis, through the nature and manner of [words indistinct], are once again proving their weakness and failure to confront the will, determination, and courage of the Islamic Resistance mujahidin, who stand in all lines of confrontation and battle ready for all developments.

On another level, the enemy, in today's operations, raided some places that it considered military targets, but the targets were generally civilian. Concerning the military targets, the enemy raided a place that it believed was a resistance antiaircraft position in the town of 'Amashiki. But the place was free of this weapon. In Janta, the shelling attained no results. The Israeli enemy (?claimed it attacked) military targets, but I stress that the shelling achieved nothing. In fact, no targets were hit, and there were no martyrs or injured among the military mujahidin. Apart from these areas and from the raid on al-Na'imah hills, the targets of the Israeli shelling were completely civilian houses. Several homes were shelled in 'Ayn al-Tinah, Suhmur, Yahmur, and al-Siddiqin. Some houses were demolished over the heads of their civilian occupants, and a number of people were martyred or wounded.

This is yet a new indication of the enemy's weakness on one hand and brutality on the other. When the enemy takes revenge on defenseless civilians who live peacefully in their homes, it shows it cannot face the fighters and mujahidin in the battlefield. It is an additional indication that Israel cannot confront the resistance. At any rate, we consider today's operations as an Israeli attempt to get out of the impasse caused by resistance operations. We stress anew that the initiative was, and still is, in the hands of the resistance, and that the enemy was, and still is, in a predicament. I believe that today's operations will only sharpen the impasse experienced by the government of the Israeli enemy as it faces the resistance and its mujahidin.

In view of these developments and the new threats that we heard today during the Israeli enemy's brutal air raids, we would like to affirm a potion that we have stated throughout the past few years, a position for which we paid heavily in blood and sacrifices: The resistance operations will continue. The Israeli enemy must know that threats will not weaken the resolve and determination of the resistance mujahidin. If we recall the operations in the past few days when our fighters stormed positions in Bi'r Kallab and Sujud, attacked Israeli and Lahdist barracks, and ambushed their patrols inside the occupied area, we notice that these operations are significant because they took place while Israel was massing large numbers of troops in the region and was making threats. The threats were meant to intimidate our fighters and weaken the mujahidin's determination and willpower. Given these circumstances, the mujahidin's motives and incentives were stronger. Their motto was to attack the enemy before he attacked them. The attacks were successful.

I believe that all the new Israeli threats will be useless because the resistance that emanated from clear and firm principles, concepts, and ideology cannot reconsider its approach and struggle because of normal developments. Ever since the resistance was launched following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, we have considered ourselves to be in an open warfare with the enemy. We will continue to defend our kinsfolk and people in western al-Biqa' and south Lebanon and we will take no notice of the Israeli red lines or controls. The resistance command will define the controls on the resistance operations in line with its strategy to continue its actions and maintain the people of the resistance. The Israeli enemy, its prime minister, and its chief of staff cannot impose controls, the rules of the game, or red lines on the resistance. We are in an open battle with the enemy, and we will do all that is required by our duty to defend our people, kinsfolk, towns, and villages whatever the consequences.

I would like to emphasize this position today and praise the mujahidin's steadfastness, our kinsfolk's patience and sacrifices, and the heroic confrontation that the Syrian ground defense maintained along the al-Biqa' plain. I congratulate the Syrian command on the heroes who were martyred today. They have added to their records of defending the freedom, security, and stability of this country and its people.

Finally, in view of the new developments and the enemy leaders' threats and possible actions, I declare from this city—which was the target of an Israeli aggression today—on behalf of the Hizballah leadership a general alert, mobilization, and preparedness to confront all actions that the enemy may take against our people. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Israeli Air Raids on South Lebanon Reported 25 Jul

Ground Defenses Fire Back

JN2507110693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Southern Lebanon—Israeli warplanes raided the Ba'labakk area at 1030 today. Ground defenses opened fire on the raiding warplanes. The aggression targeted areas surrounding Ba'labakk, as well as the township of Janta and an area southeast of Ba'labakk.

Reports indicate that Israeli warplanes are still overflying al- Biqa', and that the ground defenses are confronting them. Israeli warplanes this morning also launched two other raids; the first on the township of 'Ayn al-Tinah, and the second on the plain of Mashgharah. Reports indicate that there were five casualties in 'Ayn al-Tinah. Israeli warplanes also raided the township of al- Na'imah south of Beirut.

In another development, the Lebanese national resistance men this morning attacked with machineguns and rockets a position manned by the occupation troops and the agent militias in 'Alman. A statement issued by the resistance said that the operation was a response to the repeated Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon, pointing out that the occupation troops sustained heavy losses.

The Israeli Council of Ministers met this morning to hear briefings by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Chief of Staff General Ehud Baraq, and the head of the military intelligence on the Israeli raids on both southern Lebanon and the Lebanese national resistance positions.

After the meeting, Baraq said Israel will continue its military operations in southern Lebanon on the pretext of maintaining calm in the region.

Two Syrian Soldiers Killed

JN2507173093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1620 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Damascus, 25 Jul (SANA)—A military spokesman has stated the following:

Israeli warplanes this morning raided civilian targets in various areas of Lebanon, including some areas where our forces are positioned. From their positions, our ground defenses intercepted the raiding Israeli warplanes. Two of our soldiers were martyred and a third was wounded as a result. Several Lebanese citizens were also wounded as a result of these raids.

Death of Additional Soldier Reported

JN2507203393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] A military spokesman has announced the following:

This afternoon, the Israeli enemy pursued its aggressive and provocative actions in Lebanon. It shelled some civlian areas, and, at 1750, its Air Force bombed a position of our forces in the Western al-Biqa', causing the martyrdom of one soldier and the wounding of two others.

At Least 14 Said Killed

JN2607063093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Southern Lebanon—The Israeli occupation forces last night expanded the scope of their aggression, which began yesterday morning, to include Sidon and Tripoli. Fourteen people were martyred and about fifty injured.

As Israeli warplanes continued to launch raids until the evening on various areas of southern Lebanon, the Israeli occupation forces shelled several areas adjacent to the occupied part of southern Lebanon, especially Iqlim al-Tuffah, al-Nabatiyah, the al-Luwayzah hills, and 'Ayn Bu Siwar. Lebanese Army centers in al-Nabatiyah also came under the shelling. Also, Israeli gunboats last night shelled the al-Baddawi camp, north of Tripoli.

Meanwhile, as Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin threatened to escalate the military situation in southern Lebanon, more Israeli military reinforcements continued to arrive in the occupied part of the south.

According to the latest statistics, yesterday's civilian casualty toll as a result of the Israeli attacks on Lebanon rose to 14 martyrs and about 50 wounded. Many houses and farms were destroyed. Radio l'Orient cited Lebanese security sources as saying last night that the number of martyrs has risen to 20 and that dozens have been wounded. The sources affirmed that it is difficult to give a specific number.

Reports from southern Lebanon affirmed that Israeli warplanes last night launched an aggression against areas east and north of Sidon. Antiaircraft defenses confronted the warplanes. The warplanes also raided al-Nabatiyah before midnight last night. Eight citizens were injured.

The Israeli warplanes also raided the Lebanese Iqlim al-Tuffah area before midnight last night. Radio l'Orient said that the Israel planes dropped bombs on Mlita and al-Luwayzah hills. Two Israeli planes also shelled the al-Na'imah hills, southeast of Beirut. Meanwhile, other Israeli planes raided 'Ayn Buthaynah in western al-Biqa'.

The Israeli raids targeted the villages and towns of Siddiqin, Zibqin, Kafr Jabr, al-Duwayr, al-Ghanduriyah, Jibshit, Mazra'at al- Hamrah, Mashgharah, and Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, and the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Buss camps in Tyre. Israeli planes also overflew Khaldah, south of Beirut. The Lebanese Army antiaircraft guns confronted the enemy planes.

Western al-Biqa' and Ba'labakk yesterday came under over 14 Israeli raids, which resulted in the martyrdom of three citizens and the destruction of three shops.

In another development, after midnight last night Israeli gunboats shelled al-Baddawi camp, north of the Lebanese city of Tripoli. REUTER cited security sources as saying that Palestinians in the camp returned fire at the Israeli sea fire sources. AFP said that two people were martyred, and three others were wounded.

Commentaries Criticize Israeli Raid on Lebanon

Impact on Christopher Tour Seen

JN2507145993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel continued its bombardment of southern Lebanese towns and villages today, inflicting heavy damage on innocent civilians and their property. It used cannons, tanks, and assault planes. Although Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has publicly admitted that a military operation is unfeasible and cannot end national resistance, the savage attacks continued with the same violence at a time when all eyes are on U.S. Secretary Christopher's peace tour of the Middle East.

The whole world is aware that Lebanon is a peaceful country, and has never threatened Israel's security. On the contrary, Lebanon has paid a heavy price for the Israeli greed toward its land and for the designs of Israeli officials, which aim to divide the unity of its land and people and to subjugate it.

When we recall the past, we see that the Lebanese have paid for these designs with the blood of their sons and the destruction of their establishments and houses, which they built themselves. Lebanon has lived through a destructive civil war, in which Israel has been the main instigator. Hundreds of thousands of civilians evacuated south Lebanon after the unjust invasion in 1982, and destruction was inflicted on many Lebanese villages.

Israel is today repeating the same story. It mercilessly bombards villages and towns. The pretext has not changed: It is the national resistance. Had Israel responded in the past, and if it responds now to Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for unconditional withdrawal of its invading forces, it would not complain about the national resistance, because the Lebanese do not want anything more than to live peacefully in their homeland. But to slice off part of southern Lebanon—in order to set up a quasi-state and an army of mercenaries, and to use the occupied area to threaten the security, safety, livelihood, and future of the Lebanese—is contrary to all Security Council resolutions and the principles and charters of the international community. Moreover, to ask the Lebanese to relinquish their land and to be the guardians of the invading forces, has been rejected and condemned because no people can be asked to protect those who occupy their land.

If there are lessons that Israel should learn from the developments in the south, it is that peace and occupation are contradictory. The search for a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East that provides security and peace to all parties conflicts with occupation. If the security of the Galilee is dear to the Israelis, the security of southern Lebanon is also dear to the Lebanese. The peace proposals presented by the Arab parties to the Washington talks, particularly the Syrian working paper, are enough to guarantee security and peace for all parties.

Full withdrawal from the occupied territories in return for full peace is the ideal formula to end the Middle East crisis, resolve it on fair principles, and rid the region of the cycle of wars and conflicts. Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied territories, including the Golan and southern Lebanon, is the right path for a real, entrenched, and lasting peace. All UN resolutions have called for this withdrawal. The U.S. initiative has adopted the principle of land for peace as its basis.

At a time when all eyes are on Christopher's Middle East peace mission, the rulers of Tel Aviv are supposed—if they are really as concerned as they claim to be with the progress of the peace process—to put an end to their aggression against south Lebanon, and to openly and unequivocally commit themselves to the implementation of UN resolutions and withdrawal from the occupied territories. Short of this, Christopher's mission will be a failure. Through its intransigence and procrastination, Israel is the one responsible for this situation. The Arabs will never relinquish their territories and rights and then offer peace to Israel.

Raids May 'Derail' Talks

NC2507151593 Paris AFP in English 1443 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Damascus, July 25 (AFP)—The Syrian Government Sunday slammed as "brutal" Israeli air strikes on Lebanon which killed at least nine people, including two Syrian soldiers.

Warning that the attacks could derail U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's imminent peace mission to the area, official radio here said Israel should put an "immediate stop" to the "brutal and cruel" attacks on Lebanon.

But the radio did not mention the death of the Syrian soldiers, part of a 35,000-strong Syrian army presence in Lebanon.

Israel had launched the attacks, which pounded pro-Iranian Hizballah and Palestinian bases in Lebanon, ahead of Christopher's arrival, "using the actions of the national Lebanese resistance as an excuse," official radio said.

Israel "must stop its attacks on Lebanon, and start withdrawing from occupied Arab territories, including

southern Lebanon, to ensure Christopher's mission is not derailed," the radio station added.

Christopher is due to arrive in the region July 31 to try to jump-start stalled Middle East peace talks.

Events To Test U.S. 'Seriousness'

JN2307160293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1133 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Israeli military escalation in southern Lebanon is neither peculiar nor unexpected in terms of its timing and objectives. The Tel Aviv rulers have always stepped up the tension whenever signs of more serious U.S. moves to activate the peace talks or promote the Middle East peace process loom on the horizon. The United States has become truely concerned over the future of the peace process in the wake of the poor results of the 10th round of talks. Hence, it dispatched Dennis Ross to the region at the head of a delegation of experts and announced a new tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, which may be followed up with shuttle visits. U.S. officials have reiterated their commitment to play the role of a full partner and honest broker. In light of these developments, observers following the Middle East expected an escalation on the Lebanese-Israeli front—an escalation that has indeed materialized.

By heightening tension, stepping up artillery shelling and air raids on Lebanese villages and towns, and making threats, the Tel Aviv rulers seek to make security issues take precedence over political issues. They want to deflect the attention of U.S. envoys to the region from their main objective, which is to advance the peace process, and to preoccupy them with a multitude of complicated details regarding what Rabin terms guaranteeing the safety of Galilee and the security strip; that is, the occupied part of southern Lebanon.

We believe that all world governments, including the U.S. Government, are fully aware that the important issue is not guaranteeing the safety of Galilee. It is convincing Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and respond favorably to the efforts under way to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Because of its daily attacks on villages and towns in southern Lebanon, which have forced Lebanese civilians to flee their homes, and its devastating barbaric shelling, Israel has elicited resistance, which is a legitimate act deemed commendable by all world peoples. You can hardly find a people who have not resisted foreign occupation. The United States itself waged a war of resistance against British occupiers. The same holds true of all European peoples, who waged resistance activities against Nazi occupiers.

If it indeed seeks to secure the safety of Galilee, Israel has only to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425, which explicitly provides for the unconditional withdrawal of its invasion troops from southern Lebanon. The Lebanese want nothing other than the restoration of their occupied territories. This premise applies to all Arabs.

If we are to review events and realities, citing hard facts and figures, we will reach the conclusion that the safety of Galilee is not being threatened, as Israel claims. We will indeed find that it is the safety of the Lebanese people that is being threatened. Tens of thousands of Lebanese people have been repeatedly compelled to flee their villages and towns. These displaced people have seen with their own eyes the destruction of their property, houses, installations, and farmlands. As for Israel, it is planning to create a statelet in southern Lebanon, one that would serve as a springboard for constant Zionist aggression against all the Lebanese.

As usual, Israel is telling lies and misrepresenting facts with the hope of torpedoing the peace talks and deterring the U.S. Administration from continuing its reconciliation efforts and the full partner and honest broker role it pledged to play. The United States, along with all other members of the international community, is fully aware that it is expansionist Israeli ambitions that have been behind all the calamities and catastrophes that have befallen the region, and that it is these expansionist Israeli ambitions that are currently precluding the success of the Washington peace talks, something that could actually achieve a just and lasting peace.

The Arabs, through Syria, offered Israel full peace in return for complete withdrawal. However, Israel continues to reject withdrawal from the occupied territories—despite the fact that the essence of the U.S. initiative and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions provides for trading land for peace. Not a single day passes without us hearing statements by Israeli officials opposing the restoration of Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty or complete withdrawal from the Golan or southern Lebanon. Meanwhile, it keeps demanding the safety of its occupation troops.

All these pretexts are flimsy and unconvincing. The heart of the matter lies with the Israeli occupation. As for the achievement of peace, it is contingent upon the dismantling of the occupation. Israel will not end its occupation of Arab territories or effect a complete withdrawal from these territories unless it comes under strong and firm pressure from the international community. By putting such pressure on Israel, the international community will be upholding its principles, charters, and resolutions, and defying the law of the jungle, which Israel has honored and cherished since 1948.

Given all this, we would like to say that the success of the United States in its new efforts is contingent upon how far it is willing to go to show its seriousness in obtaining Israeli compliance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and international conventions. The Arabs are the advocates of true peace. The achievement

of peace, however, is contingent upon the restoration of their occupied territories and the end of the expansionist Israeli occupation, which is targeting their present and future.

Aims of Israeli Attack Viewed

JN2407064693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Jul 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In a comment today on the continuing Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon, AL-THAWRAH says the aggressive Israeli practices against Lebanon are part of its constant policy and ambitions in southern Lebanon. In current circumstances, the least these practices seek to do is obstruct the U.S. secretary of state's mission, slam the door in his face, and ignore U.S. peace efforts.

AL-THAWRAH believes that by relying on the U.S. alliance and unlimited support, Israel permits itself to encroach upon the sovereignty of an independent state—Lebanon—and to kill and displace Palestinians.

AL-THAWRAH says the continuing Israeli aggression against Lebanon destroys every pretext on which this aggression is based, especially the security of Israeli settlements. The real objectives of the aggression have been stated by Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations with Lebanon, who said: The issue with Lebanon is not confined to security arrangements. Rather, what is required is a system of bilateral relations encompassing all economic, cultural, and development sectors.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Those are the visible objectives of the Israeli aggression. As for the hidden objectives, Israel seeks to break up the unified Syrian and Lebanese positions on bilateral negotiations, and to force Lebanon to sign an agreement with Israel. Another objective Israel has ceaselessly sought is to restore chaos and fighting to Lebanon, in the hopes that this would provide an atmosphere suitable to establishing warring cantons, through which it can then penetrate into Syria and other Arab countries. This is a direct threat to pan-Arab security. This requires the Arabs to unite their efforts and stands. Likewise, the international community is required to define its position and face up to this aggressive policy.

Israel Said Sabotaging Peace Process

JN2607064893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Brutal Aggression and the Touchstone of the Peace Process," AL-BA'TH editorial says: The treacherous Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and Western al-Biqa' came as no surprise to the world, which has been following for a week the threats of the Rabin government and its military reinforcements in the occupied south.

Also, the pretexts advanced by the enemy to prepare for the aggression were not convincing to any person with enough sense. Besides contradicting international laws and charters which stress the right of any person whose land is occupied to resort to all means of struggle to liberate it and drive out the occupier, the pretexts of the Rabin government, since he assumed office, have been designed to obstruct peace efforts as a prelude to blowing up the very foundations of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH goes on: The enemy started to escalate its aggressive tone following the failure of the 10th round of the peace talks and amid a flurry of U.S. diplomatic activity to prepare for a fresh round, culminating in Christopher's upcoming tour of the region in a few days.

The paper adds: Perhaps what is most striking in this regard is that Rabin's threats are continuing, and his escalation of the military situation will continue as the U.S. secretary's tour of the region draws nearer. Here, every person observing the course of the peace process has the right to persistently ask: Has the Rabin government decided to blow up the peace process once and for all by continuing to kill the Arabs?

AL-BA'TH concludes: If so, Lebanon will not be the victim. Lebanon is not a easy morsel for Israel. The valiant Lebanese Army, the heroic resistance, and the entire Lebanese people will turn into one mass of resistance that will burn the land under the feet of the invaders.

Also commenting on the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, TISHRIN says: Israel has seriously and provocatively escalated the situation in southern Lebanon by organizing a brutal aggression and bombing scores of Lebanese villages, turning the south into a battlefield. The paper notes that this portends grave developments and repercussions by which Israel seeks to make the situation tense, push it to the brink of the abyss, threaten Lebanon, stick to its occupation of the south, and refuse to implement Resolution 425.

A decision has been made at the highest levels in Israel to escalate the situation, the paper notes. This was confirmed by members of the Rabin government following an Israeli Cabinet session yesterday morning.

TISHRIN adds: The Israeli aggression against the south was sanctioned by an official decision made by the Rabin government and the military leadership, under the pretext of ensuring the security of the settlements and settlers in the Galilee. This proves that the Rabin government has immediately found a ready-made prescription to justify its aggressive practices and to turn the south into a war inferno once more. Israel has not paid any attention to all efforts to invigorate the peace process and move the Washington talks from their current crossroads. Previously, Israel had deliberately sought to bring about a stalemate in the talks, especially in the last two rounds.

TISHRIN goes on: Israel's resort to aggression, shelling, and escalation of the situation does not in any way serve the peace process. This will complicate it and make it retreat further. It is also a blow to the peace process in its entirety. If Israel wants to open new doors and have a serious escalation of the situation, then it is suffering from delusions and will only reap disappointment. Peace is the antithesis of aggression, and no one accepts Israel's policy of fait accompli. Also, calm cannot be secured by maintaining the Israeli occupation of Arab territories because occupation has never been, and will never be, a blessing for the occupiers. Rather, it is a curse on their policy, measures, and reactions.

India

Parliament Debates No-Confidence Motion in Government

BJP To Support Move

BK2407093093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Text] Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee is the new leader of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] parliamentary party. He was elected unanimously at the party meeting in New Delhi today. He succeeds Mr. L.K. Advani who has since become the BJP chief. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Vajpayee said the forthcoming monsoon session of parliament could be decisive.

Later briefing reporters, the party spokesman, Mr. Jaswant Singh, said the BJP stand on the no-confidence motion against the government is clear. It will support the motion irrespective of the fact whose motion is taken up by the house. Mr. Jaswant Singh said the BJP prefers that that the no-confidence debate should take place toward the expiry of 10-day notice for the purpose. He said the reasons are political, but did not elaborate. The BJP parliamentary party executive also met this morning and identified issues to be raised during the monsoon session.

Rao Predicts Motion's Defeat

BK2507033093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] The prime minister has expressed confidence that the proposed no-trust motion against his government in the monsoon session of parliament will be defeated. In an interview to a national daily, Mr. Narasimha Rao said he had no difficulty on earlier occasions in getting the support for his government in the Lok Sabha.

Referring to Harshad Mehta's allegations of payoff, the prime minister said these have not affected the credibility of his party. He said the people of the country on the whole have rejected the Bombay stockbroker's charges. Asked why the government has not set up an inquiry commission to probe the charges, Mr. Narasimha Rao said there is already an inquiry into the issue by the JPC [joint parliamentary committee]. He denied that the credibility of the liberalization program has been affected by the stock scam. The prime minister said the economic policy reforms must have stepped on the toes of some forces within the country.

In reply to a question on how to meet the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] challenge, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the people would be told about the failures of the BJP-ruled states. The prime minister said his party intends to win back back the confidence of the minorities.

On the termination of the rocket deal by Russia, Mr. Narasimha Rao said Indian-Russian relations are based on understanding and cooperation in a wide range of areas. New Delhi is in touch with Moscow regarding further implementation of the contract, he added.

Congress-I To Demand Quick Debate

BK2507160893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] The Congress-I Parliamentary Party [CPP-I] says that it will demand that discussion on the no-confidence motion, notice for which has been given by the opposition parties, be taken up straightaway when Parliament meets tomorrow. Speaking at the general body meeting of the CPP-I in New Delhi today, the party president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, said that the monsoon session will be quite stormy and turbulent and the ruling party will face the situation.

Briefing newsmen, the chief whip of the party, Mr. V.C. Shukla, expressed confidence that no-confidence motion will be defeated, going by the performance of the government. The Lok Sabha business advisory committee is meeting early tomorrow morning to decide the time to be allotted for discussion on the motion. Replying to questions, Mr. Shukla said the Congress-I is not surprised at the All India Anna DMK [Dravida Munneta Kazagham] move to vote in favor of the no-confidence motion.

The CPP-I discussed a number of issues which included the political situation in the country, the Kashmir issue, the cryogenic engine deal with Russia, and other international matters. The prime minister outlined steps taken by the government for the welfare of the people, particularly in the erstwhile BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-ruled states. Mr. Narasimha Rao said there has been a distinctive improvement in the Kashmir valley during the last three months, though much more has to be done. Referring to the grave flood situation in Punjab, Haryana, and some other parts of the country, he said the center is engaged in finding resources to help the affected states.

Debate Begins 26 Jul

BK2607081093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] The Lok Sabha is now discussing a no-confidence motion against the government moved by Mr. Ajay Mukhopadyaya of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]. The speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, announced that he is admitting the motion as most of the members belonging to National Front [NF], left parties, and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] supported the motion at the introduction stage. Though the NF, left parties, and BJP members gave separate notices of the no-confidence motion, Mr. Mukhopadyaya's motion came first in the ballot. The motion sought the censure of the government for its economic policies and charged it with failure to check communalism and to bring to book those responsible for the demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya. The opposition also alleged that the government has failed to prevent corruption.

Earlier, the House began its session this morning with two new members taking oath. They are Mr. Ram Kripal Yadav, Janata Dal, and Mr. Umrao Singh, Congress-I. Later, the House deeply mourned the passing away of Professor Nurul Hasan, former governor of West Bengal, and five former members during the intercession period. Paying tributes to Professor Hassan, the Lok Sabha speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, said he was an eminent historian, noted administrator, and able parliamentarian.

Our parliamentary correspondent reports that the House was almost full much ahead of the schedule time and Congress-I members greeted the prime minsiter by thumping desks when he entered the House shortly before 1100 hours. The new leader of the opposition, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, resumed his seat with Mr. L.K. Advani moving over next to him. All the party leaders including Mr. V.P. Singh, Mr. Chandrashekar, Mr. Somnath Chaterji, and Mr. Indrajit Gupta were present. The House then took up the question hour.

Economy, Ayodhya Raised

BK2607091193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] The Lok Sabha has begun discussing a no-confidence motion against the Narasimha Rao government. Moving the motion, Mr. Ajay Mukhopadhyay of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], whose notice was picked up in the ballot, charged the government with pursuing anti-people economic policies by surrendering the country's interests to the IMF and the World Bank. He said that two years of Congress-I rule has proved that the government was insincere in fulfilling its commitment to the people. The result was only unemployment and added misery to farmers, laborers, and the common man. Mr. Mukhopadhyay also criticized the Narasimha Rao government for its failure to contain the communal forces. Instead of fighting the communal forces, the government, he alleged, has begun negotiations with those who were responsible for the Ayodhya incident. Mr. Mukhopadhyay questioned the validity of the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] probe in the corruption charges in high places. The CPI-M member said that the prime minister himself should have appeared before the JPC [Joint Parliamentary Committee] to clear the allegation leveled against him.

Rebutting the charges, Mr. Buta Singh, Congress-I, said that the government has brought about a sea change in the economic scene of the country in the last two years, amidst repeated interruption from the opposition benches. Mr. Buta Singh charged them with seeking only the interest of their parties and not the country. Mr. Buta Singh was still speaking when reports last came in.

Earlier, the speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, admitted the motion of Mr. Mukhopadhyay, announcing that it came first in the ballot. The NF [National Front]-Left parties and BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] members had also given separate notices of the no-confidence motion. When Ajay Mukhopadhyay sought leave of the House to move the motion, the BJP members also stood in support of it. The leader of the opposition, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, clarified that the BJP is supporting the no-confidence motion, though it does not agree with the reasons given in it. Reacting to this, the human resource development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, questioned the validity of the motion as there can be no qualified no-confidence motion. He alleged BJP's hand behind Harshad Mehta's allegations against the prime minister.

The no-confidence motion sought to censure the government for its economic policies and its failure to bring to book those responsible for the demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya. The opposition also alleged that corruption prevails even at the highest level of the government. The discussion will continue after lunch.

Further Charges

BK2607130693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Two opposition members in the Lok Sabha today made a scathing attack on government policies and its failures, while the Congress-I rebutted the charge saying that the present government has brought the country out of the economic crisis.

Participating in the debate on the no-confidence motion against the government moved by Mr. Ajay Mukhopadhyay, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-marxist], BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], said the government could not provide even the basic security to the people and failed to arrest the Memon brothers involved in the Bombay blasts. He said the government has no clear-cut policy on Kashmir and there is lack of direction toward any solution. Wondering how the government could not bring out the names of beneficiaries of the Bofors case, he said that we have to rely on Swiss courts for this. He demanded renegotiation of the rupee-ruble trade with Russia as the cryogenic deal is not coming through.

Mr. George Fernandes, Janata Dal, said that multinationals have been given a free hand to run the country's economy. Even for manufacturing salt, a multinational (Kargil) has been permitted to set up a complex near the Kandla port in Gujarat. He questioned the need of inviting Coca Cola again to enter the Indian market. He said the government has nothing to prove that the economy of the country has improved. He demanded setting up of a JPC [joint parliamentary committee] to probe the disinvestment of shares of public sector undertakings. [passage omitted]

The discussion may continue today and tomorrow.

Military Documents Seized From Pakistani 'Agent'

BK2407123393 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] A Pakistani secret agent, suspected to be working for Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence, was arrested in New Delhi this morning by the special branch of the Delhi police. Here is a report:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Mohammad Reaz was caught red-handed at 1015 this morning while receiving secret documents from a local contact in a park on Sardar Patel Marg. In the scramble to escape, the Indian contact got away, but definite clues about his identity have been noted. Reaz, working in Pakistani High Commission, was taken to Chanakyapuri police station as per procedure and senior External Affairs Ministry and high commission officials informed. Reaz was also medically examined and found to be hail and hearty. He was handed over to the Pakistani authorities who refused to take him back initially on the plea for a medical examination by their own doctor. Eventually, Reaz was taken away soon after 1400. A case was registered under the Official Secrets Act. [end recording]

The documents seized from the Pakistani secret agent relate to the movement, deployment, and some other details of the Army and the Air Force, according to an External Affairs Ministry spokesman. Stating that the involvement of the Pakistani High Commission officials in espionage activities is nothing new, he said today's incident confirms the continuance of such activities. The spokesman asserted that this is totally unacceptable by every norm of diplomatic conduct.

The Delhi police have also achieved a major breakthrough in the Bombay blast case, when five notorious members of the Dawood Ibrahim gang were arrested in the capital today. Our correspondent has more details:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Delhi police early in the morning had plans to commit a very major crime in the capital. [sentence as heard] It was revealed that they were waiting for final orders from Dawood Ibrahim himself. But their plans were foiled when a special team from Delhi police laid a trap and nabbed them while they were traveling in an imported car in east Delhi this morning. Earlier, the policemen had located the house that the gang had rented and were keeping a close watch on their movement for quite some time. At the time of their arrest, the dreaded criminals were carrying sophisticated weapons, including a grenade. Going by the kind of weapons they carried and the car they used, it is evident that the gang had access to large sums of money. Addressing a crowded press conference in the capital today, the Delhi police commissioner, Mr. M.D. Kaushal, said the gang had already started to interact with the underworld in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab during their stay in Delhi. Now, he said, the police and the investigative agencies will interrogate them further for vital clues in the Bombay blast case. A team of officials from Bombay police will soon reach Delhi for the probe. [end recording]

Protest to Pakistan

BK2407155693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Text] India has given the Pakistani High Commission official who was apprehended yesterday while accepting sensitive documents from an Indian contact a week's time to leave the country. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that India lodged a strong protest with Pakistan regarding the spying incident involving Mohammad Reaz who is believed to be working for Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence. The documents seized from him related to the movement and deployment of the Indian Army and the Air Force.

Diplomat's Expulsion 'Unnecessary Retaliation'

BK2607032893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Pakistan has declared an Indian High Commission's official in Islamabad as persona non grata in retaliation for the arrest of an official of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi on Friday [23 July]. The Pakistan Foreign Office has asked the Indian official, Mr. G.L. Verma, to leave the country in a week's time. The high commissioner, Mr. S.K. Lamba, has described the Pakistan's move as an unnecessary retaliation for a man who was caught red- handed while receiving sensitive documents from his local contact.

Police Storm Sikh Golden Temple in Search of 'Rebels'

BK2507092293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0914 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Amritsar, India, July 25 (AFP)—Indian police stormed the Golden Temple here in an overnight action to arrest two wanted Sikh rebels reportedly sheltering inside the holiest shrine in Sikhdom, officials said Sunday [25 July].

Some 50 heavily-armed officers raided the 400-year-old complex and searched for the militants in the temple hostels housing Sikh pilgrims, they said.

The police raid last about an hour, witnesses said.

The two wanted Sikh separatists were wanted for the abduction of an industrialist a fortnight ago in this northern Indian state, police said.

Witnesses said the raiders detained at least 10 Sikh visitors in a police station of this holy Sikh city after storming the Golden Temple, adding that the pilgrims were released after interrogation.

The two wanted militants were not found in the shrine, the officials added.

Sikh managers of the temple Sunday reacted angrily saying Saturday's raid was a government plot to "heap dishonour" on the name of the Sikh community.

"The raid was aimed at maligning the Sikh community," said Manjit Singh, a secretary of the Sikh Gurdwara Prabandak Committee, a religious forum which manages the administration of the Golden Temple.

The overnight storming of the Golden Temple is the second such action by the police on the shrine since October last year when Punjab detectives raided the complex and arrested several wanted militants.

Indian commandoes laid siege to the temple in May 1988 and rained thousands of bullets on militants hiding inside. Thirty-six of them died in the 10-day operation launched after the rebels had shot at a senior police officer.

In June 1984, an estimated 600 militants, soldiers and Sikh pilgrims died in the shrine during an army assault called Operation Blue Star launched to flush out scores of separatists using the sacred complex as their headquarters.

Sikh militants are battling for an independent home called Khalistan, or land of the pure, in the northern state. Thousands have died in violence linked to the decade-old separatist campaign.

Normal Life Disrupted by Strike in Calcutta

BK2307162293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] In West Bengal assembly, the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] today moved a privilege motion against seven Congress-I members for their alleged indecent behavior in the house yesterday. The motion was moved by the CPI-M member, Mr. Nani Kar. Earlier, the house suspended the question hour and took up yesterday's incident inside the assembly for discussion. The speaker, Mr. H.A. Halim, condemned the physical assault on the secretarial staff of the house including the marshal.

The chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, said the Youth Congress-I's attempt to march to Writers Building on Wednesday [21 July] was to disrupt normal life in the state. In a statement, Mr. Basu said the dimension of the violence on that day suggested involvement of the leaders of a few other political parties. The chief minister's statement was read in absentia in the house by the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. Prabodh Sinha.

Normal life was disrupted in the state today following a 24-hour bundh [strike] called by the pradesh [state] congress. Except for a few minor incidents, the bundh is so far peaceful. Describing today's bundh as partial, the information and cultural affairs minister, Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharyya, said that one CPI-M worker has been killed in Pathar Protima in South 24 Parganas District in clash with bundh supporters. He said train services in the Eastern Railway have been disrupted. Mr. Bhattacharyya said in Calcutta half of the market is open. According to him, most of the shops are closed. Coal mines and tea gardens functioned normally.

The pradesh [state] Congress-I president, Mr. Soumen Mitra, has described today's bundh as spontaneous, peaceful, and total. He said by observing bundh today, people have mourned the death of 12 persons killed in police firing in Calcutta on Wednesday.

The BJP's [Bharatiya Janata Party] state committee has described today's bundh as successful and it has reflected people's verdict against the Left Front government.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Condemns Israeli Raid on Lebanon

LD2607102893 Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry has condemned the Zionist regime's latest savage attacks on south Lebanon and has called for international forums to adopt a serious decision to stop the crimes of the usurper Zionist regime.

The statement refers to yesterday's savage air attacks by the Zionist regime on south Lebanon, in the course of which a number of defenseless Muslim inhabitants of that area were martyred and injured. The statement says: Even though this is not the first time that such criminal acts have been committed by the usurper Zionist regime against the Muslims of south Lebanon, nevertheless, under present circumstances, wild attacks of this kind, deep in Lebanon's territory, which have also led to the martyrdom of several Syrian troops, demonstrate the Zionist regime's inclination to undermine any kind of reconciliation.

Elsewhere in the statement the Foreign Ministry states: The Islamic Republic of Iran once again strongly condemns the aggressive and anti-human actions of the Zionist regime. It regrets that, with the passing of about half a century since the Palestine issue was placed on the agenda of the Security Council, no serious decisons have yet been reached by international forums to implement the rights of the oppressed people of Palestine, provide for the security of south Lebanon, and put a stop to the crimes of the usurper Zionist regime.

Commentary Sees Test for UN

NC2607082993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Station commentary by News Commentaries Group]

[Text] As you have heard in the news, the Zionist regime has spawned new atrocities by bombing and shelling

various parts of Lebanon. In this act of extensive aggression, which, according to military experts, is unprecedented in intensity and extent since Israel's aggression against all of Lebanon in 1982, Zionist warplanes and artillery indiscriminately attacked residential areas, which resulted in more than 100 civilians killed or wounded so far.

With regard to this aggression, Yitzhaq Rabin, the Zionist regime's prime minister, announced that Israel will continue such attacks as long as there is tension in the northern areas. Reciprocally, Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, the leader of the Lebanese Hizballah, commenting in the wake of Israel's extensive aggression against some Lebanese cities, announced that the Islamic resistance will continue its operations based on its legitimate right of self-defense as long as Israel continues to usurp Lebanese territory.

Similarly, the combatants of the Islamic resistance retaliated for Israeli aggression and launched missile attacks on the northern areas of occupied Palestine yesterday, in which some Zionist settlements were hit and nearly 10 Israelis were killed or wounded.

The latest act of wanton aggression by Israel against Lebanon has met with condemnation from several countries. The Arab League denounced the Israeli aggression and called for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. According to political observers, the extensive Israeli aggression against Lebanon once again puts to the test the seriousness of the Security Council toward factors which endanger world peace.

For the past 10 years, the Security Council has reiterated the points of Resolution 425 and has asked Israel to withdraw unconditionally from southern Lebanon, but Israel has audaciously refused to abide by this resolution and continues its aggression against Lebanon without any serious reaction on the part of the United Nations.

According to these observers, if the Security Council once again—influenced by U.S. support for Israel—contents itself with issuing a tepid resolution or calls for a halt to military operations without any guarantee or enforcement mechanism, the UN's credibility will be tarnished more than ever in the eyes of the people of the region as a result of its double-sided policies.

Similarly, in view of the upcoming visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region next week and U.S. efforts to convene the 11th round of Arab-Israeli talks, political observers say that with its latest act of aggression, Israel is seeking to motivate the Lebanese to stop insisting on the implementation of Resolution 425. In this manner, Israel wants to divert their attention from demands for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories to debates on security issues and to signing nonaggression pacts.

Israeli Objectives Analyzed

LD2607115293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0952 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The wave of artillery and air aggressions by the Zionist regime against various parts of Lebanon which started yesterday morning have continued this morning. The Zionist regime's indiscriminate air attacks have led to the death of dozens of civilians and the destruction of many areas. The ruthless bombardment of cities and villages has forced thousands of the country's citizens to leave their homes.

In reaction to the Zionist regime's artillery and air aggression, Lebanon's revolutionary Muslims last night fired dozens of Katyusha rockets in the direction of northern Israel. The attack set a number of residential units in the Zionist populated area of al-Jalil on fire and left several people dead or wounded.

The Zionists' excuse for their massive air attack on Lebanon is the death of seven Zionist soldiers in occupied areas of southern Lebanon. With this excuse Israel is trying to portray its aggression as a retaliatory measure. The actions of Hizballah in attacking occupying units of the Zionist regime, however, are within the context of the right of defense against an occupying force and are supported by international regulations on rights. Furthermore, the Lebanese Government and parliament officially support the actions of the Lebanese revolutionary Muslims in defending the territorial integrity of the country.

Although the unprecedented Zionist military aggression against Lebanon might have taken place under the pretext of retaliation for the death of a number of aggressive Zionists, it is designed for a number of political and military goals. First, the successful operations of the Islamic resistance of Lebanon and Palestine in occupied sectors of southern Lebanon have clearly shown the military vulnerability of the Zionist regime. The Zionist regime has therefore tried to put its military strength on show and hide its military weakness. The other aim of the Zionist regime in killing the people of Lebanon is to defend the theory of a security belt for the Zionist regime. The operations of the Lebanese and Palestinian revolutionary Muslims in the sectors of southern Lebanon used by the Zionist regime as its security belt, as well as a significant increase of Zionist army casualties in this area, have practically nullified this theory. In their operations against Lebanon the Zionist leaders try to defend the theory of a security belt through creating chaos and insecurity in the area so as to continue their occupation of southern Lebanon.

Setting aside the military and expansionist aims of the Zionist regime, the Israeli Cabinet has another goal in its decision to attack Lebanon. It is more than 15 years

since Israel occupied parts of Lebanon. Although Security Council Resolution 425 calls for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese soil, the Zionist regime has refrained from its implementation. In over one and half years of negotiations between representatives of the Lebanese Government and the Zionist regime, in the context of Middle East peace talks in Washington, the Zionist regime has impudently refused to discuss Resolution 425 and has repeatedly brought up security issues in order to achieve another security agreement. The signing of this sort of agreement with Israel would practically put the Lebanese Government face to face with a number of domestic political difficulties, including the alliance between the Lebanese Government and Army with the revolutionary Islamic resistance, and in turn would make the Lebanese Army into an instrument safeguarding Israeli security.

Some political observers believe that on the eve of the trip by U.S. Foreign Secretary Warren Christopher to the region, which is aimed at attracting the agreement of the participants in the Middle East negotiations, Israel is trying to create chaos in the Middle East in order to put the topic of security arrangements with Lebanon on the agenda of the talks and take refuge from the pressure of public opinion regarding the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425.

Velayati Condemns Armenian 'Aggression' Against Azerbaijan

LD2407101693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, acting president of Azerbaijan and chairman of that country's parliament, telephoned our foreign affairs minister this morning. He called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to help stop recent clashes between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

In response, our country's foreign affairs minister condemned the occupation of Agdam and the continuation of the aggression of the Armenian forces against the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Stressing that these clashes serve the interests of neither of the two countries, he added: The achievement of a real and lasting peace is only possible through diplomatic negotiation and regional cooperation.

Commentary Examines Conflict

LD2407115293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0956 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] After three days of heavy attack on Agdam and its surrounding villages, the Armenian forces captured the town on Friday. This development took place after areas such as Kelbadzhar had fallen to Armenian forces on 3 April.

The continuation of the Armenian forces' recent attacks on Azerbaijani towns and villages has once again added to the complexity of the dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Despite international efforts in this connection, Armenia has so far not taken any step to indicate its willingness to end the present crisis and pave the way for peaceful negotiations. It seems that, without any regard for the implications of military action, Yerevan officials have become trapped in a process which, if continued, will not be in the interests of any of the countries of that region. Despite the fact that certain efforts have been made by the United Nations and the CSCE to end the Karabakh dispute, and despite the fact, moreover, that a treaty was signed by Azerbaijan and Armenia in Minsk, no step has been taken toward the withdrawal of Armenian forces from Azerbaijani territory and the establishment of a cease-fire in the Karabakh area.

The analysis by some political observers of the present situation in Karabakh is that, while the warring parties decline to respond to intermediary efforts and avoid direct negotiations, the possibility of the intensification of the conflict in the area will remain. Therefore, it can be said that the silence of the member countries of the CSCE, who have in effect endorsed the Karabakh peace treaty, may be interpreted as sanctioning the position of each of the parties which has expansionist propensities.

Of course, amid all this, there is the effect of the presence of some powers who, in line with pursuing their own policies, seek to establish an area of influence in the Caucasus, as well as the political and military support of these powers for the existing factors ['avamel-e mojud] with the aim of creating tension and/or continuing the war.

However, despite all the overt and covert support given to the parties entangled in the Karabakh dispute, it is worth pointing out that as long as the two parties do not comply with international rules, in particular by respecting each other's rights, they will cause the present conflict to be sustained and expanded, thereby becoming more and more embroiled in the bitter consequences of the conflict. Therefore, the first step toward establishing peace in Karabakh is for the two neighboring countries of Azerbaijan and Armenia officially to recognize international borders and respect each other's sovereignty. In this connection, of course, direct negotiations and mutual cooperation will constitute the best solution.

Economic Commission Session Held With Libya

LD2407172493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Text] The fifth session of the joint Iranian-Libyan economic commission began work in Tehran this afternoon. The Central News Unit reports that during three days of debate the commission will examine the implementaton of previously agreed memoranda of understanding and will discuss reaching new understandings to expand technical and economic cooperation between

the two countries. Issues relating to the oil industry, industries, heavy industries, commerce, communications, technical and vocational training, the exchange of workers, culture and Islamic guidance, culture and higher education, and energy are among the topics to be discussed.

According to the report, the results of the session will be drawn up in the form of several documents and signed. Mr. Kamali, our country's minister of labor and social affairs, and Libyan Industry Minister Jadallah [Azuz Bil-Qasim al-Talhi] head the Iranian and Libyan delegations to the commission.

OPEC President Visits Before Emergency Session

Interviewed on Mission

LD2407105693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Text] In an exclusive interview with our correspondent, OPEC President Jean Ping, who is visiting Tehran ahead of an emergency OPEC oil ministers conference, has stated that the objective of his visit is to carry out consultations with the important oil-producing countries in the Middle East. He said that during visits to four regional states there will discussions on ways of extricating OPEC from the current crisis.

[Unidentified correspondent] On the reasons for the crisis in the oil market, Mr. Ping said: Iraq's future oil production and its effects on OPEC's production ceiling, Kuwait's failure to accept the Geneva agreement, and an oil glut on the market are some of the main factors contributing to the current crisis. He deferred any comment on the means of resolving the crisis to the end of his mission to the four Middle Eastern oil-producing states. Stressing the heavy responsibility shouldered by OPEC, he said: OPEC has always had the responsibility of resolving existing problems, whether these problems concern OPEC members or non-member states. Because of the importance which oil holds for OPEC members—either individually or together—the organization is duty bound to find a proper solution to end the current crisis.

Commenting on the results of his talks with Saudi authorities, Mr. Ping said that it would be most difficult to make an assessment of those talks. He said: I feel that there is a strong resolve to end the crisis and any proposed solution will depend on the sensitivities of OPEC members.

Finally, the OPEC president expressed optimism regarding the success of the OPEC emergency session.

Meets Oil Minister

LD2407144693 Tehran IRNA in English 1424 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—OPEC Chairman Jean Ping here today called for cooperation and contribution of all 13 OPEC members for stabilization of the market and achievement of real oil prices.

He made the call in a meeting with Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh, where the two also reviewed the current situation of the oil market. Ping expressed hope that through consultation with some major member states including Iran and Saudi Arabia, stability would be restored in the market.

Aqazadeh in reply emphasized on the imminent convention of the OPEC emergency meeting, and said cooperation of the members and their commitment to the OPEC approvals is a determining factor in market stabilization. He said such commitment by the member states would eliminate the current crisis in the oil market, otherwise, he added, the likelihood of further tension in the market would increase.

Ping arrived here Friday [23 July] night for a one-day visit.

Commentary Discusses Market State

LD2507125393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0955 GMT

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] After the reduction of oil prices in international markets, OPEC President Jean Ping began his tour of the region for consultations with the member states. Following his visit to Saudi Arabia, he arrived in Tehran and conferred with our country's oil authorities in order to seek information on the viewpoints of OPEC member states ahead of the organization's emergency meeting.

The oil market has been beset by instability in recent weeks for various reasons. Reports of Iraq's entry to the league of oil exporters may be mentioned as one the main reasons. In 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990], with the start of the Persian Gulf crisis, Iraq's oil exports were cut off. The UN resolutions issued in 1370 allow Iraq conditional annual oil exports to the value of $1.6 million, under UN supervision. Recent talks between Baghdad and the United Nations increased the probability of the resumption of oil exports by that country. The oil market, therefore, has moved toward instability in anticipation of plentiful supplies. The OPEC president, who is touring the Persian Gulf states with a view to determining a mechanism for Iraq's entry to the oil market, has invited these countries to an emergency meeting next week to improve the chaotic state of oil prices.

In addition, the extra oil output in the month of Khordad [22 May-21 June] this year constitutes another factor in the oil price reduction. According to International Energy Agency analysts, during the first three months of the current Christian year oil demand was less than forecast and the reduction in demand has resulted in the failure of the OPEC member states' output to be absorbed by the market. That is because the industrial

West—which had been forecast to extricate itself from its recession—has failed to witness economic growth. Therefore there has been no increase in oil demand by the West.

Another reason for the oil price reduction is Kuwait's dissatisfaction with its quota set in the last OPEC meeting. The small state of Kuwait had been seeking an increase in its quota from OPEC in order to compensate for damages resulting from the Persian Gulf war. That was why it did not sign the final statement of the meeting. Last month Kuwait exceeded its quota by 100,000 barrels of oil and, according to oil sources, it intends to exceed its allotted quota by 300,000 barrels in the current month. That is why the extra supply, side by side with the oil price reduction, has had an effect in destabilizing prices.

From the Islamic Republic of Iran's point of view, OPEC member states must prepare themselves for Iraq's entry to the international oil market. Those states which, during the Persian Gulf crisis, filled the empty places of Iraq and Kuwait with their extra output must review their current production.

The OPEC emergency session, which will probably be convened in the near future, is an opportune moment for investigating a mechanism for Iraq's entry to the market while reviewing the status of the oil production of the member states, and for the members to undertake to safeguard OPEC's authority to achieve a basic price of $21 per barrel.

Although the Islamic Republic of Iran needs the hard currency acquired through oil exports to compensate for the damages of the eight years of holy defense, reconstruction costs, and state development, it prefers to join in actively with other OPEC members to support oil prices through commitment to its pledges.

Paper Previews Meeting

LD2607095293 Tehran IRNA in English 0904 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—A morning daily Monday [26 July] called on OPEC members to evaluate present crisis with a realistic approach, adding: "If they fail to achieve agreement on concerted efforts to deal with present crisis, they will have to expect an ambiguous economic future."

'TEHRAN TIMES', editorializing on current crisis in oil market, wrote: "While the OPEC extraordinary ministerial session is scheduled for Wednesday, the international oil market is going through one of its most critical periods."

It said while adoption of a harmonious stand by OPEC members seemed to be essential to control the ever-worsening market situation, recent remarks by Saudi officials and that country's objection to the proposed cut-back on production had greatly complicated the already chaotic situation.

"As a matter of fact the majority of OPEC member countries are in favor of lowering the production ceiling as a means of controlling the oil supply and boosting oil prices," wrote the article.

The daily stressed that Iran and Saudi Arabia were the "two principal poles" of OPEC whose views would usually play determining role in the policies adopted by the organization.

However, it added, any great divergence of opinion between the two countries could make it difficult for OPEC to reach a decisive and satisfactory resolution.

"The most dangerous aspect of the situation is the possibility that Saudi Arabia may be trying to use oil production as a weapon against the other OPEC members," concluded the paper.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Arrives on Official Visit

NC2507073693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Harold Herath, the Sri Lankan foreign minister who is also minister of state for finance, arrived in Tehran last night on an official visit. During his four-day stay in Tehran, he will confer with Iranian officials on broadening relations between Iran and Sri Lanka and bilateral cooperation.

Meets With Velayati

LD2507102593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Harold Herath met Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati this morning and called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to participate and invest in economic and development projects in his country.

Mr. Herath referred to the importance of the role played by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the peace and security of the region and called for the expansion of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Sri Lanka. Mr. Velayati reciprocated by announcing the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand cooperation with Sri Lanka in all fields.

Discusses Bosnia With Majles Speaker

LD2507165593 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA—Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri in a meeting with the visiting Sri Lankan minister of foreign affairs, James Edward Harold Herath here Sunday [25 July] criticized the double-standard policies on the international organizations towards the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He also stressed the need for cooperation between the two countries through adopting a common stance in the international organizations. The speaker lauded the role of parliamentary friendship groups in strengthening bilateral relations.

Harold Herath said his meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati this morning was very useful.

He extended an invitation to Nateq-Nuri to visit Sri Lanka which was accepted to be made at an appropriate opportunity.

The Sri Lanka foreign minister arrived in Tehran today at the invitation on his Iranian counterpart to pay a four-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2607135893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Harold Herath this morning. Mr. Herath had a written message to deliver from his country's president. In the meeting, the president expressed gratitude for the Sri Lankan president's kind message and, referring to the long-standing ties between the two countries, said: There are many grounds for political, economic, and commercial cooperation between Iran and Sri Lanka. These can be developed and consolidated by increasing contacts and discussions among the two countries' officials. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that new international circumstances make it incumbent on the countries of the various parts of the world to make greater use of one another's resources. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the expansion of regional cooperation wih friendly countries, such as Sri Lanka.

In the meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Sri Lankan foreign minister submitted the written message from his country's president, described ties between Sri Lanka and Iran as the product of the two countries' historical links, and said: We are anxious to increase our cooperation with the friendly country of Iran. The Sri Lankan foreign minister concluded by thanking the Islamic Republic of Iran for its cooperation with Sri Lanka in the field of trade and commercial exchanges.

Talks With Deputy Majles Speaker

LD2607142393 Tehran IRNA in English 1314 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani told visiting Sri Lankan Foreign Minister James Edward Harold Herath here Monday [26 July] that the Islamic Republic welcomes expansion of ties with such friendly countries as Sri Lanka. [passage omitted]

Later today, Herath met with Majles Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rohani who termed as "alarming" what has been done by international organizations over the past few years. Rohani, saying that new alliances formed in industrially advanced countries had no benefit for the developing countries, called for alliance and further cooperation among the latter countries. He also condemned the Zionist regime for its "barbaric" air raids on southern Lebanon and said even an Israeli official has acknowledged that the aim of the bombardments was to force the Lebanese people to exert pressure on their resistance groups.

Pointing to the U.N.'s inability to solve the Bosnian crisis, Rohani said the United Nations Organization was now agreeing to the partition of a country it had already recognized its independence. Rohani, also secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, warned that the U.N.'s step-by-step retreat vis-a-vis the aggressor Serbs would set a dangerous precedent and would herald a gloomy future.

Herath called for expansion of Tehran-Colombo ties and said the promotion of mutual parliamentary relations through establishment of friendship groups would be a positive step toward this goal.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Sermons

Stresses Importance of Prayers

LD2307174993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jul 93

[First Friday sermon by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 23 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Since the coming week is the anniversary of the beginning of the Friday prayers after the victory of the revolution in Iran, and that is a very important day in the history of our revolution, I prefer to talk about Friday prayers in my first sermon for the further awareness of our people, especially the youth, of this important divine duty. We will devote the next sermon to other current affairs.

Regarding Friday prayers, it is no exaggeration to say that we cannot do justice to this celestial, divine plan—which has been placed into the human community. It is one of miracles of Islam. It is one of those things in which one can see the acme of realism and foresight in designing a sound community. [passage omitted]

In Islam Friday prayers have always been the manifestation of the power, glory, and unity of the community. Those who objected to governments, their first reaction was not to attend Friday prayers. Therefore in the rule of justice [hokumat-e haq—implies God's justice] nonattendance at Friday prayers was known as a proof of the individual's hypocrisy. This is a very significant issue.

We have many stories that those who deliberately shun Friday prayers regularly are hypocrites. Now, such hypocrites...[pauses] The problem has a root. The problem is that they do not agree with the government. [as heard] Because they did not agree with the government they did not attend the Friday prayers. Now if the government was one of falsehood [batel]...[pauses] This is one of the ways of isolating the government. But those who agree with the government, one of the signs of their acceptance was that they took part in the Friday prayer. [passage omitted] It says: if someone, without any excuse and reason shuns three Friday prayers—some stories have this as three successive Fridays but some don't—this is the state of a hypocrite; a hypocrite does that. That is a state in which the person is not with the government and seeks to strike a blow by that means and prevent the glory of Islam. Therefore Muslims, revolutionaries, believers, especially civil servants, government managers and heads, personalities, prominent people and religious scholars, should feel obliged [moqayyad] to take part in Friday prayers in such a way that all the people realize that they give importance to Friday prayers. This is a duty.

It is difficult for us to say that those who do not come to Friday prayers are hypocrites. But one who does not go to Friday prayers regularly and has no reason for his action either, well, why? We know how important Friday prayers are. We have understood our experience all this time. To be fair, among all our establishments—social, political, military, and disciplinary—that were new and created after the revolution, the service that Friday prayers have done to the continuation of the revolution and the presence of the people in the arena is very great. We have felt that with all our being. [passage omitted]

The Friday prayer preachers are the most important capital of this divine duty. We must try to spend a lot of time and enrich our sermons. We should offer issues that are attractive to people, are instructive, and make people aware. The more we study, the further we increase our knowledge of the world and offer proper analyses to the people, it will not go amiss. This is not like a book that has specific boundaries, especially the Friday prayers in Tehran and Qom which are broadcast and others which are broadcast in the provinces. This is a great opportunity.

Here one of the important objectives of Friday prayer is the safeguarding of the unity of prayers, the unity of the community. Preachers must be vigilant not to talk about divisive issues at this place, not to speak about factional issues, but talk about issues that attract everybody. If at this place we alienate a strata of our revolution and injure their feelings from this podium, no good will come to us. This place is for coming together, not for putting asunder. We have plenty of places for divisiveness, where we can have factional quarrels, group, party quarrels, and such like. Let's keep this venue for all the community and talk about the community's essential issues. They should be unifying. One must not vindictively raise some baseless and weak criticisms from this podium that undermine the system, undermine the authorities, undermine the whole of the community. Some issues that are capable of being resolved through discussion must not be brought to the community level from this venue. These are all among recommendations that in the past have been given by the imam and today by the leader of the revolution and have been raised in discussions. We must safeguard this venue, that is Friday prayers, throughout the state, the exalted preachers, and the celestial and divine plan for our unity, unanimity, and the presence of our community in the arena, and not be influenced by the tricks of satans for creating division, suspicion and prevention of proper use of this divine podium. [passage omitted]

Comments on Recent Events

LD2307155193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1110 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Second Friday sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 23 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] We have had two or three victories this week. So I must thank the organizers and the people who really made us proud and breathed life into our society. It is very good. Do not easily overlook what I am talking about. We have had success both in the scientific and the physical and sports fields. It is a good omen for our society.

In the scientific field, we had news yesterday that our Maths Olympiad team achieved sixth place among around 70 countries, who consider themselves important students of mathematics and who believe that their societies have mathematical talents. [passage omitted]

Our students registered a great victory in the history of our revolutionary society, especially over America. The latter recently did something very spiteful and deceitful which made us angry. In a dastardly manner she refused entry permits to our other Olympiad team, which was to take part in a competition in America. [passage omitted]

This shows nothing but America's fear. The thought of our youths going to America and besting America—a country in which they have been saying for years that there is no knowledge or education in Iran, that the people are illiterate, that they have no education—when the people see that our lads have gone there and bested them, they couldn't not report it. They may not broadcast our news, but they could not do it then.

They are so cowardly that they are protecting themselves like that, although it is contrary to international values. If an international event is taking place in a country, it is obliged to receive the competitors from all over the world. It must not bring in political issues. In any case, God wished it and our lads made an effort and bested America in Turkey. [crowd chants: "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to America"]

We also had the news that our self-sacrificing devotees—those maimed during the war, the lions of the battle scenes of the hard times when we defended the country in the Iran-Iraq war—went to England, the house of Satan, and did better than everybody else apart from the host team; and the host team has a particular advantage. Even there our lads became second as a result of some mischief. You look at the commitment of our lads. In world scenes we face Israeli sportspersons. The world sport laws say that if one side does not attend the competition he or she will be the loser and the other side the winner. Our champion did better than two other competitors and refused to compete against the third one who was an Israeli, despite the fact that everyone believed he would win. For that reason he was banned from the rest of the competitions. Even if a competitor has to face an Israeli competitor at the beginning and decides against it, he will be banned from the rest of the games. That is an issue which some sportspersons criticize us for. They say it is to Israel's advantage that you do not compete against the Israelis. Whenever we do not win, Israel wins without any trouble. Sometimes they even plan that our strong competitors have to compete against the Israelis.

Up to now we have thought that adhering to our ideals and great principles pertaining to the struggle against Israel, the ominous cause of the occupation of Palestine, is worth ignoring a few medals at sport scenes so as to gain that supreme spiritual victory in the world. [passage omitted]

The other issue which concerns the Islamic world as a whole is that unfortunately many centers of premeditated and preplanned crisis in many parts of the Islamic countries still remain, and those who have the cure are not prepared to offer it. We really must complain to the Islamic countries and states as well, as they do not make the appropriate endeavors for the purpose of rescue. In Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kashmir, Karabakh, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, Somalia, and many other places, our Islamic community is facing real difficulties, and is going through a hard period of time. This is due to the anger and grudge of the arrogance against the movement of pure Islam. The arrogance does not want the sovereignty of the spirit of Islam. However, I am certain that the grudge of the major powers is not in their interests. At the end of it all, it is public opinion which will make the final decision, and it is the people who will have the last word.

Issues such as these following issues serve to alert the people. They could not believe that when, under the pretext of supporting the drought-stricken people of Somalia, they entered that country with ships and planes full of goods, anyone there would say anything against them. But because of their lack of good intentions, we witness that they are facing such difficulties, being trapped in quicksand. This is because they think everything can be resolved by food, medicine, and arms. This is not so. One must work with the people. America and the West's great mistake is that today they are ignoring the public opinion of 1.2 billion Muslims of the world. They imagine that if they deal with a few dependent governments, then their problems will be resolved. This is really a mistake.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, in particular, America and all the other powerful Western countries have failed the test which history has put before them. Today, the whole world knows that they did badly in that test. The final act served to disgrace them completely. At one stage they claimed that no one was prepared to dispatch forces to Bosnia. They said that the United Nations had decided to send a 37,000 strong contingent there, but no one had come forward. At one stage the UN secretary general said: We have no budget. Excuses such as these continued to be put forward.

In the Islamic Conference Organization summit a good decision was made, where it was decided that a force should be dispatched to Bosnia to safeguard peace under the auspices of the United Nations; that is to say that this force was to act under the command of the UN commanders and the Security Council. They would be posing no danger under these circumstances. This issue opened a test case on which the eyes of the world were focused. The Islamic Republic of Iran made its position completely clear here. In the Islamic Conference, one member country announced its readiness to dispatch 500 troops, while another offered to send 1,000 troops, and still another refused to contribute financially.

We said that we were ready to send a 10,000 strong army and meet all their costs. This statement made them all tremble. [crowd chants in support] We were not bluffing. We were merely speaking the truth. It is not necessary that we force anyone to go to Bosnia. Our combat-experienced youth are ready go there voluntarily in order to safeguard the peace, and to protect those oppressed people.

After Iran announced its intention, America faced a real and hard dilemma: If Iranian troops go, then all those conspiracies to dismantle Bosnia and drive the Muslims out of Europe will become inoperable. Those who have been posted there, under the pretext of peacekeeping, have their hands tied in with the Serbs, lending them support. But if America does not permit the dispatch of Iranian troops then how is it going to answer the people? So at the end, they decided to say that if the Iranians are allowed to go there, they will gain influence there.

Well, if we are in fact able to gain such an influence then the question is: With all yor thirst for influence within the realm of others, why is it that you cannot attain such an influence? Given the fact that you are more intent than us to be present in other realms, then why don't you send these 10,000 troops and gain influence? If dispatching armies brings influence, then why have you been unable to gain influence in Somalia? Why is that the same people who welcomed you on your arrival on the Somalian coast now treat you with guns and stones? These do not constitute influence. The very fact that you prevent the Iranian contribution in itself enhances Iran's influence. That is to

say that Bosnian people will realize that the one who will really save them is prevented from coming to their help, whereas the one who betrays them is allowed in.

In any case, you Westerners performed very badly in your test. This, however, is expected from those with an arrogant and monopolistic nature who are unable to grasp realities.

My speech became quite lengthy; we therefore will not have any Arabic sermon today. [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Meshkini Discusses Selection of New Ministers

LD2307171093 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1410 GMT 23 Jul 93

]Sermon by Qom Friday prayer leader Ayatollah 'Ali Akbar Meshkini in Qom on 23 July—recorded]

[Excerpt] The important issue of the day is the selection of ministers. These days the cabinet, the ministers, must be chosen. Ministers are the active pulse of the country. Every section in the life of the nation is in the hands of a minister. People have chosen the president and the Majles deputies and in turn they elect the ministers. So in fact you are choosing the ministers, but through intermediaries. On the selection of ministers people have expectations from the gentlemen, the honorable president and the deputies. The president must write the names of the ministers, one by one, and present them to the Majles and the Majles must vote. And then the ministers are chosen. In fact the ministers are chosen when the president and the deputies get together and make a selection.

Now what do people expect? People's expectation is the selection of a minister who is expert in his own field and pious; one who is concerned with people's wealth and life; one who is enlightened to the conditions of of the time and trustworthy with the public purse. People want the selection of such ministers. And there is also our expectation from the ministers. People expect the minister to choose a similar type of deputy. Generally it is the deputies who do the work. You could have a very good minister but the deputy is making a mess of his work. Choose good deputies. They should not choose individuals who are impious and in chain to their selves and lovers of money. They should not let them loose among people and allow them to destroy the country.

In the past some of the ministers were weak managers. Some were weak in terms of faith and piety. People say they must be changed. And even after the change, their activities should maybe be reviewed to see what they have done. It would be treachery to society if the ministers change, but do not review their activity. Ministers must be changed. This was an issue demanded by brothers and sisters. [passage omitted]

Guardian Council Management Committee Officials Reelected

LD2507152593 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 25 jul 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Elections were held in today's meeting of the Guardian Council for the council's management committee. The following were reelected: Ayatollah Ahmad Janati as secretary, Ayatolah Emami Kashani as spokesman, and Ahmad Alizadeh as deputy head.

Pakistan

Former Army Chief Cited on Nuclear Capability

BK2507052893 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Text] The former chief of the Pakistani Army, General Mirza Aslam Beg, has said Islamabad had carried out successful nuclear explosions in the past and has become a nuclear power. The retired general was speaking at an interview to a newspaper in London. He claimed that Pakistan has all the technical know-how and required technology to manufacture atomic devices.

Scientist Unaware of Tests

BK2607113793 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 26 Jul 93 p 4

[Text] Karachi—Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, the renowned Pakistani nuclear scientist, has said that he does not know that Pakistan has ever made any experimental nuclear explosion.

Commenting on General (Rtd.) Aslam Beg's statement that Pakistan had made the explosion, Dr. A.Q. Khan said that "it might be in the knowledge of Gen. Beg", however, there is no such thing in our quarters.

A.Q. Khan, who was talking to pressmen after the Karachi University Convocation on Sunday [25 July] at the campus reiterated that Pakistan's nuclear programme was for peaceful purpose an it would be continued.

Earlier, he was conferred honorary degree of Doctor of Science for his monumental contribution towards the development of Pakistan's nuclear programme.

The Sindh Governor Hakimi Said, who is also the Chancellor of the university conferred on him the "Honoris Causa."

Ex-President Discusses Nuclear Program, Politics

BK2307122393 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Jul 93 pp 1, 12

[Text] Islamabad, July 22—Claiming that he was even threatened with physical elimination because of his firm

stand on Pakistan's nuclear programme, former President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that "I did not crumble under such threats even for a while, because the nuclear programme is linked with the security and survival of Pakistan."

The man who occupied the Presidency for almost five years till he quit the post at the height of the country's worst political and constitutional crisis in two decades, gave an interview to a panel of three senior journalists at his Aiwan-e-Sadr [President's House] residence, the first in a long time. Mr Ishaq expressed his views about important domestic, regional and global issues in a frank manner during his hour and-a-half long talk with the journalists.

Mr Ishaq dwelt a lot on the nuclear question, and said that as long as the Kashmir dispute was not resolved and other Indo-Pak disputes not settled, Pakistan had to maintain a very strong defence. But at the same time, he pointed out, Pakistan could not afford to compete with India in conventional armament—India has a navy seven times the size of Pakistan's, an air force three fold as large, and an army double of what Pakistan has.

"With a nuclear capability, you cannot conquer the other country's capital, but it is a deterrent against breaking out of war," observed the former President, stressing that this was the only option avaliable to Pakistan as long as relations with India remained the same.

He told the journalists that India had planned to start war with Pakistan at least thrice during the last nine years, and at one stage Indira Gandhi, the late Prime Minister of India, had even fixed a date to launch an attack, which was deterred only due to Pakistan's nuclear capability, and the fact that Mrs Gandhi was assassinated ten days before the suspected launch date.

Mr Ishaq claimed that he had on more than one occassion been responsible for preventing the nuclear programme from being abandoned under pressure, in his many years at different position in the government.

He disclosed that during the days of General Zia, Jimmy Carter's national security advisor convinced the dictator to pack up Pakistan's nuclear programme in return for 250 million dollars in US aid, and the agreement was even ready for signature. But "I came in the way of this deal and convinced the late General to dissociate himself from such a deal," said the former President.

Mr Ishaq said that the present US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who was also a member of the Carter administration, had, earlier to the 250 million dollar offer, put forward a proposal to him for disposing off the nuclear programme for 60 million dollars, but he had refused and assured the US government that Pakistan could deal with the then economic crisis with its own resources.

Mr Ishaq also recounted an incident when another former Assistant Secretary of State Mr Bartholomew had come to him in the 80's but could not convince him to derail the programme. On leaving the Aiwan-e-Sadr the US official had used a vulgar expletive about Mr Ishaq quite audibly when talking to another American accompanying him, the former President remembered. On Nawaz Sharif's government [sentence as published]. To a question about the former government of Nawaz Sharif the former President s d that he stood by everything he said in his speech dissolving that government in April.

"All the corruption charges which mentioned in my speech as reasons for dismissal of the government were based on facts. In a democracy, corruption of moral and fiscal nature is the biggest crime, which leads to dismantling of society as well as state," said Mr Ishaq Khan, justifying his decision then to dismiss Mr Sharif's government. It was later restored by the Supreme Court which found the President's action constitutionally unjustifiable.

Mr Ishaq Khan said the former government had pushed Pakistan to the brink of international isolation and "we were too close to being declared a terrorist state." On long march, Mr Ishaq Khan said that the long march had a potential threat for the whole system. "I told Ms Benazir Bhutto, Manzur Wattoo and others that the march should not create a law and order situation, and an assurance in this regard was given by them," related the former President.

Despite this, said Mr Ishaq, he was of the view that once the long march started, the agents of disruptive forces would try to provoke the situation and anything could happen, which could make the situation unmanageable.

The former President explained that Ms Bhutto had given the government a deadline for 7pm the day before the march, which was met and the long march was called off. "The federal government could not last long when three provincial governments were determined to get rid of it," observed the former President. On his resignation: Mr. Ishaq told the journalists that during the negotiations brokered by the religious parties, at one stage an elderly (?man) stood up clapping his hands, and asked for resolution of the crisis, at which the former PM got up angrily and said that he would not step down because he had two and-a-half years to go for his term. "If you give up your presidentship then I'd follow," Mr Ishaq quoted Mr Nawaz Sharif as having said to him. On this, said Mr Ishaq, he indicated his readiness, which left the PM on the wrong [word indistinct] and he sat down quietly in his chair.

Mr Ishaq said he was mentally prepared to resign even before the talks, because he thought he would be going home in three or four months anyway, and all the better if that resulted in elections as well.

On economic policies: Referring to his recent meeting with the interim PM Moin Qureshi, the former President said that the PM had termed him the author of the economic planning of the country. Mr Ishaq lamented that the political parties had not formed cadres for

economic affaires. "I asked the caretaker PM how long will Pakistan bank on Ishaq, Mahb-oob (Mahboobul-Haq), and Sartaj Aziz to run its economy?"

Mr Ishaq said that he had once asked late former PM Mohammad Khan Junejo to establish such cadres, and he immediately appointed Mian Yasin Khan Wattoo as Finance Minister in his cabinet.

The former President said that despite all the statements about the country's economy, we are not really aware of the real position.

On the enemy's roles Mr Ishaq Khan paid rich tributes to the leadership of the army, saying that the army had played a very positive and responsible role it the recent crisis. "The army is fully aware of its responsibilities and has always lived up to the expectations of the nation," the former President observed.

On Kashmir: Mr Ishaq observed that the Kashmir dispute is bound to be settled. "India has no other option but to vacate the valley, since the Kashmiris are determined to snatch their freedom, and they have rendered unmatched sacrifices."

Mr Ishaq Khan observed that Pakistan's internal stability and integrity was closely linked to the liberation of Kashmir, and that is one more reason why Kashmir issue must be solved successfully.

On the C-120 crash: The former head of state maintained that the inquiry into the plane crash that killed General Zia and more than two dozen senior military officers was not able to ascertain the exact cause or the culprits responsible, though the element of sabotage had been detected.

He referred to a claim by the son of the former dictator, Ejazul Haq, and said that he (Ejazul) had not been able to present any proof to validate his charges. Mr Ishaq said that a special committee under P K Bubdial, former Federal Secretary was formed to investigate the claim, but Ejazul did not make himself available to the inquiry term. Mr Ishaq said that Mrs Zia had told him that the "proofs" referred to by her son, supposely in Paris, had not materialised.

On Asi Nawaz's death: The former President declined to disclose the contents of the report into the former COAS's [chief of Army Staff] sudden death reportedly by heart failure, but said that the commission investigating the death could not find anything to indicate other than natural death of Mr Asif Nawaz. The commission had referred to the allegations made by the late COAS's widow about her husband being possibly murdered, and observed that this could not be further investigated by exhuming the body, which the family would not allow either. The report was thus silent about these allegations, said the former President.

On contesting the next polls: While ruling out any active political role, Mr Ishaq Khan said that he had yet to make up his mind to contest the next presidential or not. He claimed that Mian Sharif, father of the former PM, and Dr Randhawn, physician of Mr Sharif, used to meet him and they had declared in Lahore that he (Ishaq) was still fit enough to contest the next two presidential elections.

However, Mr Ishaq Khan, said "I would like to give some attention to my only son, Mamoon, whose marriage has been delayed because of my engagement in the Presidency."

On his plan for the future Mr Ishaq Khan said that he would prefer to live in Peshawar, where he has his own house, which is being renovated. "I am enjoying the company of my grandchildren, who are engaged in picking [as published] and also enjoying the presence of their grandpa," said the 80 year old former President. During the interview, the voices of children were heard all over the house. Mr Ishaq's residence for the last five years and which he is now vacating to make room for the next President.

"Thank God I have so many things to do, I am a student of contemporary history, and would like to study something more in the days to come."

On the prevailing political polarizations: The former President said that the country's political leadership should be careful while taking political steps. He spoke highly of Ms Benazir Bhutto, Sardar Farooq Leghari and other PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leaders and said that the PPP had enlightened and sensible leaders in its fold. The religion-political parties also had sensible and mature leaders, the observed the former President. "These people should drag the country out of this quagmire".

He said that Ms Bhutto had asked him to stay in the capital, but he could not afford the high rents and other expenses.

Mr Ishaq said that he would be aways available to serve his country, in any way. "It is not essential that one serves the country only as President or Prime Minister," remarked a smiling former President.

Six New Cabinet Members Sworn In

BK2307162893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] A six-member caretaker federal cabinet has been sworn in. The acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, administered the oath to the ministers at a ceremony at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [President's House] in Islamabad this evening. The caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, was also present. The ministers are Mr. Nisar Memon, Mr. Fateh Khan Bandial, Mr. Ahmad Farooq, Syed Babar Ali, Mr. Abdus Sattar, and Lieutenant General, Retired, Mohammad Shafiq.

Talking to newsmen later, the prime minister said he intended to add five or six ministers to the cabinet in a next few days. He said he would be addressing the nation

over radio and television in due course of time as he was already in the process of firming up program for the interim period. Mr. Moin Qureshi pointed out that devaluation of rupee will have a healthy impact on economy, particularly on exports, as the decision was long overdue in view of a similar move by our neighboring country. He said the Pay and Pension Committee would continue its assigned job to make recommendations for the review of salaries and pensions of government employees.

Portfolios Announced

BK2407094193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Text] The portfolios of the six caretaker federal ministers who took the oath of office yesterday evening have been announced. The ministers' portfolios are as follows: Syed Babar Ali, finance and economic affairs; Abdus Sattar, foreign affairs; Retired Lieutenant General Mohammad Shafiq, education, science and technology, population planning, special education, and social welfare; Ahmad Farooq, communications and railways; Fateh Khan Bandial, interior affairs, narcotics control, and provincial coordination; and Nisar Memon, information and broadcasting. Later, Acting Prime Minister Moin Qureshi presided over the first meeting of the cabinet.

Explaining the objectives of the government, the prime minister said that the federal government will have to devote its capabilities, experience, and energy to conducting general elections. The government will create an atmosphere necessary for conducting free and fair elections. The prime minister said that his government is meant for 10 to 12 weeks only, and, therefore, it will take only those steps necessary to run the country's economic affairs. Earlier, talking to newsmen, the caretaker prime minister said that he intends to add five or six ministers to the cabinet in the next few days. Moin Qureshi pointed out that devaluation of the rupee will have a healthy impact on the economy, particularly on exports, as the decision was long overdue in view of a similar move by our neighboring country. He said the Pay and Pension Committee will continue its assigned job of making recommendations for reviewing salaries and pensions of government employees.

Qureshi on Administrative Changes for Elections

BK2507101793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Caretaker Prime Minister Moinuddin Qureshi has said no decision has yet been made to dissolve the local bodies in the country. Talking to reporters after a meeting with the senators at the Parliament House in Islamabad yesterday, the prime minister disclosed that a number of major administrative decisions have been made, which are aimed at ensuring the elections are held in a free and fair atmosphere. Like the federal government, the provincial governors and the chief ministers are also determined to take every possible step to provide equal opportunities to all political parties in the upcoming elections. He said: On our own part, we have reviewed a number of issues and will make some administrative changes, which will clearly reflect the sincerity and impartiality of the administration and police chiefs. We will enforce the relevant laws in a way that will not only guarantee the conduct of free and fair elections, but will also make the people feel that the elections were really free. These are some of the steps which we have taken and certain other special decisions will be made and announced soon, the prime minister added.

When asked if he has received any suggestions from Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto about the conduct of free elections, the caretaker prime minister said several issues have been brought up to him and he has reviewed them and needs to analyze them further so he can adopt a final stand on these issues. The prime minister said the suggestions made for the conduct of free and fair elections will be given serious consideration. He added that if a general consensus is reached on the question of bringing about certain changes in the election laws, then they will be implemented.

Answering a question whether any decision has been made to request the military leadership to make security arrangements for the elections, Moin Qureshi said negotiations are under way on this issue and they are extending every possible cooperation.

In reply to a question about the recent devaluation in the value of the rupee, the prime minister said the decision about changing the foreign exchange rate is totally in keeping with the country's economic interest. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have nothing to do with the devaluation and he had not consulted the officials of these institutions in this regard. However, after reviewing the situation, he himself realized that the devaluation was needed in view of the current import-export trends in the international markets.

About his visit to the United States, Moin Qureshi said he might meet with some important officials of the IMF and the World Bank in Washington. He has known these officials for a long time and he considers them his friends. He will discuss Pakistan's overall economic situation with them in a friendly atmosphere. He also enjoys good relations with several other international agencies and hopes to maintain that in future as well. We think we should take measures which are essential for bringing about an improvement in the economy, so that the country's economy becomes strong by the time a represer ative government takes office, the prime minister observed. Moin Qureshi said that during the five months of political instability, the country's exports have registered a 15 percent decline, while imports have increased compared to the same period last year.

During his meeting with the senators, the prime minister reiterated his resolve to hold free and fair elections. On

certain points raised by the senators about the elections, Moin Qureshi said: Our thinking should be realistic and practical. We cannot solve all our problems, but we will review the issues on which we can achieve conesus; controversial issues will not be raked up. The prime minister also attended a banquet hosted by Dr. Noor Jahan Panezai, the acting chairman of the Senate.

Departs on U.S. Trip

BK2507082893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, has said that the devaluation of the rupee was a modest adjustment aimed at giving the necessary stimulus to our exports and to make sure that we have a strong balance of payment position.

He was talking to newsmen at the Karachi airport this morning prior to his departure for the United States on a five-day private visit. The prime minister said that the impact of the devaluation is being exaggerated. We do not want the Pakistani products in international markets to be uncompetitive. The decision will give a great boost to our textiles and yarn exports which are the mainstay of our total export position. He complimented the previous government for removing many of the restrictions that existed on the transfer of (?capital). He said some of the restrictions that still existed on the current account balance of payments will also be removed as soon as our economic situation gets stronger.

Responding to a question, Mr. Moin Qureshi said that Pakistan would not seek any moratorium on debt servicing. We will be able to meet all our financial obligations and the policies that we shall adopt will ensure that.

Mr. Moin Qureshi said that there is no possibility of the elections being postponed and they will be held according to schedule. He said we are keen to bring a representative government into place and the people want and deserve it.

Talking about the situation in Sindh, he said the government is keenly observing the situation and will do everything possible to create better environment of law and order which is a prerequisite for having fair elections.

'Strong Protest' Over Indian Treatment of Official

BK2307143493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with the Indian Government against the manhandling of an official of the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi by Indian authorities today. Mr. (Francis Vas), counsellor of the Indian High Commission, was summoned to the Foreign Office and told of the government of Pakistan's shock and dismay over the incident of arrest, detention, and physical maltreatment of Mr. Mohammad Reaz, a home-based driver of the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi, by officials of the Indian Government. The Indian diplomat was told that the Government of Pakistan deeply resented the arrest and physical maltreatment of Mr. Reaz which was contrary to diplomatic norms and practice and a flagrant violation of the Pak-Indian code of conduct on treatment of diplomatic and consular personnel.

According to the information received from Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi, Mr. Reaz had taken the personal car of an officer of the high commission to a service station near the high commission early this morning. A group of Indian officials in plainclothes seized him and dragged him into a car which took him to an unknown destination. According to Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi, Mr. Reaz was physically assaulted by Indian officials during his detention. He was returned to Pakistani High Commission a couple of hours after his arrest.

Indian Diplomat Declared Persona Non Grata

BK2507143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Pakistan has declared an official of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad, G.L. Verma, as persona non grata and told him to leave the country within a week. A Foreign Office announcement in Islamabad said the decision was taken in view of his activities which are inconsistent with the accepted norms of diplomatic missions.